STOURBRIDGE
thechronicle
JANUARY 6, 2011
15p when sold

Brave Becky loses her battle against cancer
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Natasha in a spin with extra exercise classes
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Local Lion may be set to roar in Hollywood
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Flash dance is surprise hit at Merry Hill

Shoppers take part in the Ceroc dancing display at the Merry Hill Centre

SHOPPERS were brought to a standstill as a dance 'flash mob' descended on Dudley's Merry Hill Centre.

The routine saw what appeared to be members of the public suddenly start showcasing their dance moves as Queen's Don't Stop Me Now was played into the centre's amphitheatre outside Marks & Spencer.

Around 60 people took part in the event which had been set up to promote the launch of new Ceroc dance classes at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on January 24.

Dancer Sarah Drzazgowski from Worcestershire who was been learning Ceroc, which is a mix of salsa and other styles of dance, for 10 years said: "There was a guy behind me who when we finished turned around and said 'what just happened?'"

Onlooker, 60-year-old Val Creasey from Market Drayton, said: "I thought they were fantastic, people were clapping, and it was a really lovely atmosphere."

Debbie Attwood, who runs CerocGroove which holds classes across the Midlands and Worcestershire, said: "Everyone was really excited and I think it generated a great buzz. There were around 60 people watching."

Routines

Shopper Pat Cotterill, aged 67, from Worcester added: "It was really good, I have heard about it but never really seen it done before. I think it is a good way to keep fit."

The group was at the shopping centre for most of the afternoon and performed a series of routines.

To find out more information, email: team@ceroc-groove.co.uk

Right moves – Kieran Moore and Debbie

TRIBUTE IS PAID TO BEAUTY QUEEN

Tributes have been paid to former Black Country beauty queen and mother-of-one Helen Baker who was found dead at her home.

The family of Miss Baker, who was crowned Miss Stourbridge Crystal in 1995, have described her as fun-loving and kind.

The former Crestwood School pupil was found dead at her home in Ragees Road, Kingswinford, on December 18. She leaves behind 10-year-old daughter Saskia.

Miss Baker was diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy – or nerve damage – in August 2009, which left her partially disabled.

Her family say it was a great cause of distress to a young woman who had always been very active, loved dancing and had been a member of a leisure centre.

The cause of her death is not yet known and investigations are continuing.

Miss Baker's mother Margaret, from Chelford Road, Kingswinford, said her daughter was 20 when she won the title of Miss Stourbridge Crystal.

"I remember how proud we all were of her," she said. "It was the only contest she had ever entered.

Caring

"She did various charity events as a result, which she loved. She was a girl who loved the limelight."

Mrs Baker added: "She was a very, very popular person amongst her friends. She was a very emotional, caring person with a very kind heart.

"She was very fun-loving and loved to get dressed up.

"When Helen walked into a room, heads turned."

Miss Baker's friend Lisa Redfern said: "On a night out Helen would look stunning.

"She had total presence when she entered a room."

Mrs Baker said Helen became friendly with members of Take That in her early twenties.

"She briefly went out with a friend of Robbie Williams. Robbie used to call at our house," she said. "She first met them at a club in Stoke and even went into Gary Barlow's house in London on one occasion.

"Helen's Miss Stourbridge Crystal title and her brief association with Take That were the highlights of her social world.

"Her daughter Saskia was the highlight of her life."

Her mother added: "Helen will be sadly missed by all family and friends, but most of all by Saskia."

The funeral was being held yesterday afternoon.

Helen Baker in 1995, aged 20

Helen with Saskia in 2002

Reading for all the family

A FAMILY reading group is set to launch at Lye Library later this month.

The group has been designed to encourage families, including parents or carers and children aged four plus, to get together and enjoy the pleasure of reading.

Members will be encouraged to discuss their favourite books, take part in craft making and enter competitions.

Monthly meetings start with a first session on Saturday January 15, from 11am-noon. Details: 01384 812835.

How videos can turn Full Circle

A HISTORY group is appealing for Stourbridge residents to dig out any old home movies for their latest meeting.

Amblecote History Society's first get-together of the New Year will include a presentation from the Media Archive for Central England (MACE), which is running a Full Circle project to save old videos by transforming them to new media.

Lucy Kerley, a curator at MACE, is due to give the talk and wants as many Stourbridge people as possible to take their videos along.

Helen Cook, programme secretary at Amblecote History Society, said: "These can be family moments, events and news stories.

Opportunity

"Anyone deciding to have a New Year clearout who has any old home movies that they have wondered what to do with now has the opportunity to have them preserved."

The meeting takes place on Wednesday (January 12) from 7.30pm at Amblecote Holy Trinity Church Hall, Vicarage Road. Non-group members are welcome at a charge of £1.50.

For more details call Helen Cook on 01384 395034 or visit the group's website, www.amblecotehistorysociety.org.uk

Full Circle is a Heritage Lottery-funded project which supports Midlands organisations as they conduct searches for film in their communities and make use of them as historical documents.

Litter pick is planned – with a pint

VOLUNTEERS from the Tidy Stourbridge group are looking for help in their bid to keep the town clean.

Group members are tackling the streets again on Sunday for a Pick 'n' Pint session, said co-founder Russell Eden. "We ask for just two hours of your time, we don't care if you are unemployed, a student or an MP, you are never too posh to pick!" he said.

Litter pickers will meet in the lounge of The Duke William pub in Coventry Street at 2pm for a quick drink before getting to work. All kit will be provided.

Volunteers will then rendezvous back at the pub at 3.45pm.

All participants receive a 25 per cent off voucher for chips at Norton Fisheries, valid for a week.

For more details, visit the group's website www.tidystourbridge.org.uk

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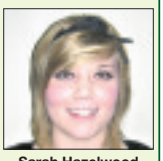

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Restoration delay but conversion go-ahead

AN HISTORIC Black Country mansion house will be brought back to life as apartments after plans for its transformation were given the go-ahead.

The Grade II listed Corngreaves Hall in Cradley Heath will now be transformed into nine apartments while plans to construct a new block of six houses adjacent to the hall within the grounds have also been approved.

The house dates back to 1780 and has been empty since the 1970s. Since then it has been hit by metal thieves and arsonists. The problems have caused hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of damage to the building.

Sandwell Council planners welcomed the transformation of the landmark site, which comes on top of a £3 million project to restore the exterior.

Planning committee member, Councillor Roger Horton, said: "This has been going on for such a while, it is great to see something coming out of it."

Objective

Permission to turn the hall into housing had already been granted by Sandwell Council in 2006, but no work ever started and in August 2010 Corngreaves Hall Ltd bought the property with the objective of restoring and developing it.

The latest plans were submitted by Corngreaves Hall Ltd which is the freehold owner of the Corngreaves Road site.

Alan Smith, of the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust, which had been interested in trying to restore the building, has also supported the plans to restore the site. "I do support bringing the hall back into use, particularly for residential use because that is what the building was used for originally," he said.

"That is the best purpose for it.If the job is completed sensitively it should be one of the best residences in Sandwell."

The transformation will see four apartments created on the ground floor, three on the first floor and two on the second floor, while the new block will feature six terrace-style two and three storey houses. The severe weather before Christmas had delayed restoration and put back the completion until this month.

Masons and specialist window restorers have been working on the hall. It was due to be finished by December. However, the bad weather combined with the challenging nature of the project has put the date back.

Eventually

Richard Hill, of Bonsers, said before Christmas: "We will be working around the clock, at weekends and over the Christmas period to keep up with the works."

The hall was home to the Attwood family, ironmasters during the industrial development of the Black Country. Ownership eventually passed to Sandwell Council, which handed over the 1.2 acre site to Gr8 Space, of Worcester, in August.

Corngreaves Hall will be transformed from this vandal-hit building into flats. Right, the graffiti-daubed entrance and some of the restored windows

Festive home treat for patients

AN INNOVATIVE scheme in Dudley has helped residents across the borough to spend Christmas at home this year as opposed to staying in hospital.

The service supported people who would normally need hospital care to receive support in their homes and by Christmas 148 people had benefited.

Dudley Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Dudley Council are behind the scheme, which is funded as part of the PCT's urgent care improvement programme. People received health and social care support from an integrated team made up of nurses and social workers.

Avoid

Some people were able to leave hospital for home sooner than they would have done, and some were able to avoid going to hospital at all. Jenny Cale, from the PCT, said: "Without this service many of these patients may have been in hospital over the Christmas period. By providing a wide range of support, we are able to help to help people overcome their illnesses, be able to stay in their own home and avoid being readmitted to hospital."

Councillor Lesley Faulkner, cabinet member for adult and community services, added: "No-one wants to spend Christmas away from their family and friends and without this service this may have become a reality for these patients."

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Brave Becky loses battle with cancer

A BLACK Country teenager who was granted her dream wish to meet Liverpool star Steven Gerrard and tour the club's Anfield stadium has lost her fight against a brain tumour.

Becky Palmer, aged 19, was diagnosed with an aggressive tumour in January and given only a 25 per cent chance of survival.

She died before Christmas surrounded by her family at their home in Ragees Road, Kingswinford.

Her funeral took place last Thursday and the mourners were asked to wear bright colours at Becky's request.

Lifelong Liverpool fan Becky saw her dream come true in September when she enjoyed a VIP trip to Anfield.

She had breakfast in the players' lounge and after chatting to them had her picture taken and Liverpool shirt signed.

Smiling

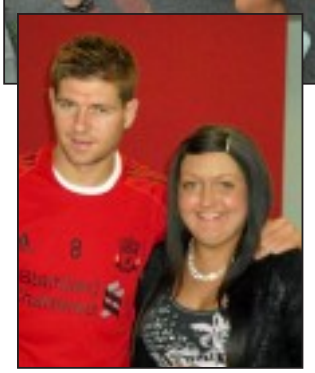
Cash for the trip was raised at a fundraising bash organised by her family and friends in July. Becky arrived at the event at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital Social Club in a pink limo.

Her cousin, Rachel Hopkinson, aged 32, said: "Becky loved going to Anfield and meeting all of the players, especially Steven Gerrard. She didn't stop smiling all day after that."

Miss Hopkinson said of former Crestwood School pupil Becky: "She was a little fighter right to the end. She didn't want to let it beat her but unfortunately she just ran out of time."

She said Becky wanted her funeral, which was held at Gornal Wood Crematorium, to be a celebration of her life.

Becky's friends and family, including her parents Andrew and Louise Palmer and half-brother Rhys, have raised £6,000 for cancer and young people's charities.



Abovle: Becky arrives in style at a fundraising event organised by family and friends

Left: Becky Palmer with Liverpool player Steven Gerrard

Station college revamp begins

WORK has started to convert Dudley's former fire station into a multi-million pound college centre.

The back of the building in Tower Street is currently being demolished by council workers before contractors begin construction work later this month.

The station will be transformed over the next 18 months into a vocational centre by Dudley College to provide training in sport, tourism, public services, beauty and the arts.

Plans for the development, called Dudley Evolve, form part of a £30million university-style campus scheme in the town centre.

Facade

The new building will pay homage to the site's past as the facade of the former fire station will be retained and incorporated in the design of the new complex.

College principal Lowell Williams said: "Our contractors will be on site at the back end of January. The build will take 18 months and will be ready for September 2012."

The college is currently working on revised plans for its sixth form and higher education centre on the corner of Ednam Road and Priory Road.

The scheme suffered a setback after Kudos House, which had been earmarked for demolition to make way for the new buildings, was given Grade II listed status.

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Dog attack kills swan after 23 years at pool

A WELL-LOVED swan that had lived on the pool at an Amblecote housing estate for at least 23 years has died after being savaged by a dog.

Wildlife lovers are now mourning the loss of Jay the cob. He died on the night of December 27 despite efforts to save his life at a swan rescue centre near Stourport.

The incident also leaves his female friend, called Pen – brought in as company two years ago after losing a wing in a fox attack – as the lone swan at the spot in Lakeside, Amblecote.

Mrs Ann Richards, aged 51, of Troutbeck Drive, Lakeside, wept as she told how she watched a young, white dog, thought to be a Jack Russell type, go "berserk", running at the ducks and other birds on the frozen lake and then biting the male swan on Boxing Day afternoon.

Safety

Mrs Richards was unable to reach Jay that evening when she went to feed the birds but, on Monday morning, risked her own safety by stepping about two feet on to the ice to pull him to the edge.

Her husband, Dave Richards, then rushed Jay to the Bishops Wood Swan Rescue Centre at Crossway Green, Hartlebury. The swan had several bite wounds to his back from the dog attack.

Mrs Richards said: "Jay suffered with rheumatism so couldn't move away fast enough when the dog ran up and bit him on the back. I was looking out of the window and saw the dog with two youths and it just went berserk.

"We're all going to miss him so much and I know our son, Bobby, who is aged 11, is very upset."

Mrs Lynn Williams, also of Troutbeck Drive, said: "I have seen dogs chasing birds before and it's upsetting when you see the ducks or geese with broken legs caused in the panic when they try to run away."

Sandy Lee, co-owner of Bishops Wood Swan Rescue, said: "The cob was a very old boy – probably 25 years or more. We gave him an injection and antibiotics but the shock killed him."

From left, Ann Richards and Lynn Williams with a remaining swan at the spot in Lakeside, Amblecote,where another swan was killed

Man, 54, is found dead

A KIDDERMINSTER man was found dead at home after his neighbour became concerned when he failed to turn up for a planned Christmas dinner.

The 54-year-old was discovered in an armchair in the lounge at his house in Hoo Road, Kidderminster.

The man was found at about 6pm on Christmas Day.

Inspector Jane Fitzpatrick, of West Mercia Police, said the death was being treated as unexplained but not suspicious.

Vets helping out homeless dogs

A VETS practice has raised money to help care for homeless dogs.

Vale in Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, generated £250 through its Paws for Cause campaign. It will go to the Dogs Trust in Evesham.

Receptionists Julie Lamb and Amanda Barrington will visit the trust in January to see how dogs are helped.

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Two collapse as the big freeze bites

TWO people in Kidderminster required medical treatment after collapsing in freezing temperatures.

Now police are reminding people of the dangers of hypothermia in case a new cold snap takes place.

A man in his 40s was found face down in the snow in Castle Road just before 6.30am on Saturday, December 18.

He had been drinking and is believed to have been there for some hours before being found.

And just before 1am on Wednesday, December 29 a woman in her 30s, who had also been drinking, was found in Market Street.

Both the man and the woman were close to hypothermia, and needed hospital treatment.

Inspector Paul Crowley of West Mercia Police said: "These are just two incidents the police and our colleagues from the ambulance service have been called to.

"In the case of the man who collapsed in Castle Road, he was very lucky to be found by a member of the public who was going to work early.

"Had he not been discovered when he was, he may well have died.

"Temperatures are dropping to well below freezing, and unfortunately when people go out drinking they are not always in a fit state to get themselves home safely.

"They are also often not adequately dressed for the weather conditions.

"We are urging people to be sensible and not add to the strain on the already stretched emergency services."

Inspector Crowley urged groups of friends to look out for each other and stay together, and reminded revellers to ensure they made arrangements to get home safely, such as booking a taxi.

Effect

He said: "People need to take personal responsibility for their actions and be aware of the effect they may have on other people.

"At this time of year there is a visibly higher police presence and the force is working with pubs, clubs and off-licences to ensure that alcohol is sold responsibly."

Meanwhile, police were called to a large number of road traffic collisions across Wyre Forest on December 29. None involved serious injury.

Horse is rescued after fall

FIREFIGHTERS rescued a 30-year-old horse on Christmas Day after it fell near Kinver.

The animal slipped and fell at its stables in Sugarloaf Lane, Iverley and was unable to get up.

Firefighters using a special rescue team from Shropshire, a tractor and a harness were able to get the horse standing again.

Later the same day three crews had to use inflatable walkways to reach a horse which had plunged through an icy lake at Patshull Park in Pattingham, near Wolverhampton, at 1.30pm.

The horse was 100ft from the water's edge and firefighters used ropes to pull it to safety, eventually rescuing the animal at 3.45pm.

At about the same time crews from Cannock were called out to rescue Whisky, a West Highland terrier which had fallen down a mineshaft near Brisbane Way, Heath Hayes.

The dog was trapped for an hour, two metres down on a ledge before being lifted out to safety.

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Reptiles could stop manor scheme

BATS and reptiles could put a stop to controversial plans to build homes within the grounds of a Black Country manor house, it has emerged.

Plans to build 14 houses in the shadow of the listed Georgian Wordsley Manor has been recommended for refusal by Dudley Council planning officers.

Developer Selbourne Homes had tried to appease planning officers by ensuring the animals would be protected.

But in a report to the council's development control committee meeting, planning officers said the strategy "would not ensure the provision of suitable measures to protect the species".

Deferred

Committee members, who have the final say on the plans, had deferred their decision in order to visit the site themselves.

In a report to the meeting, officers say: "In the absence of a suitable mitigation strategy that is able to preserve the conservation status of reptiles and bats the local planning authority retains its view, that the benefits of the proposed development do not outweigh the harm of the proposed development, with respect to protected species and the wider wildlife corridor."

Selbourne Homes managing director Gavin Warr, in public correspondence to planning officers, said: "It would be a huge disappointment for everyone concerned if the application does not go to committee with a recommendation for approval."

He added: "Following literally years of negotiation we seem to have lost sight of the bigger picture here.

Residence

"This is maybe the opportunity to save one of the most unique and important buildings in the borough as a single private residence."

Mr Warr added: "I believe the need for a 'total redesign' and 'loss of units' is unnecessary and will inevitably render the whole scheme unviable with no money available for restoration of the Manor House which is, of course, the wider objective."

More than 100 people signed a petition against the proposals which have been submitted to Dudley Council by developer Selbourne Homes which is now waiting on its decision.

Natural England – aimed at conserving and enhancing the natural environment – opposed the plans, though it said it would "adversely affect the conservation status of widespread reptiles and bats".

A decision will be made by councillors on the scheme at the meeting which is to be held on January 10 at Dudley Council house, in Priory Road, Dudley, starting at 6pm.

New bridge on the right lines

A NEW railway bridge has been installed in Birmingham. The 3,800-ton bridge deck has been wheeled into place in Selly Oak to carry the cross-city line between Redditch and Lichfield.

Decision awaited on homes

Residents in Hagley are on the verge of finding out whether they have won their year-long battle against plans for a controversial housing scheme.

They have been fighting against proposals for land at the rear of houses in Brook Crescent and Western Road, Hagley. An appeal has been submitted by developers after original plans were rejected by Bromsgrove District Council.

More than 200 residents have objected to the plans, submitted by developers Kite and Billingham. A decision is imminent.

Hagley Parish Council had urged residents to write to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol, which will decide the appeal.

Parish council chairman Steve Colella said: "We have backed our objections up with facts and hopefully the inspector will take them into account." Governors at Hagley Primary School have also raised concerns that they could not cope with pupil influx.

Mr Colella said that the local infrastructure would not be able to cope. He said there would be increased traffic, while doctors' surgeries would be over-subscribed. Residents say the homes would not be in keeping with the character of the area.

Firms queuing to build new £8.8m leisure centre

BIDS FROM construction companies across Europe are being sought to build a new multi-million pound leisure centre in Tipton.

The new £8.8million leisure centre, including a 25-metre swimming pool, will be built to transform vacant land.

It will also include a learner pool, gym, changing facilities and community room.

Once built the pool will replace the ageing Tipton Swimming Centre in Queens Road.

The tender for the construction of the centre, to be built on land at the junction of Alexandra Road and Thursfield Road, is now being advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union.

The journal is the publication in which all tenders from the public sector which are valued above a certain figure, according to EU legislation, must be published. The Tipton project will be advertised in the journal until midday on January 24.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for jobs and economy, Councillor Ian Jones, said it marked an "important step forward" for the plans.

Piazza

He said: "We look forward to receiving bids from construction companies who want to work with us to create a 21st century swimming complex that will replace the current ageing pool and serve the people of Tipton for the future."

A landscaped urban piazza will be one of the features of the centre.

A first floor fitness suite will have 50 fitness stations and community space.

The room will open onto the piazza and have views of Workhouse Bridge.

Councillor Ann Shackleton added: "Providing quality leisure facilities is vital for helping people to stay active and well, and this new centre for Tipton will be a real boost for the local community."

The pool is being built on part of the Little Burton estate in Tipton which was formerly occupied by housing.

How Tipton Swimming Centre may soon look

College houses scheme nearer

A PLAN for almost 100 new houses on a college campus site in Dudley is set to move a step closer as councillors examine proposals for road access as part of the scheme.

Dudley College hopes to sell its Castle View Campus, off The Parade, as a housing development to help pay for a new teaching complex in the town centre.

It has already won outline permission for 97 homes on the site, and the council's planning committee will discuss access at the meeting on January 10.

Exciting

The plans show how car access to the site will be from The Parade, while current access points into the college from King Edmund Street and Castle View downgraded to pedestrian access only.

Principal Lowell Williams said it was a "fantastically exciting" time for the college.

But seven objections have been received, two from the same person.

Among them was a letter from the Rev Andrew Wickens, of St James The Great, Eve Hill, who objected to the proposals as his congregation use the campus grounds to park during weekend services.

He said there was "acute" lack of on-street parking due to double yellow lines on streets near the grade II listed church.

The college plans to create a new "learning quarter" in Dudley town centre.

Winter gardens

A CRASH course in winter gardening is being held at Ashwood Nurseries in Kingswinford on January 18. Call 01384 401996 for details.

Nightclub is refused over crime worry

PLANS for a new nightclub in the heart of Stourbridge have been rejected by councillors amid police concerns over crime.

The derelict former Chippers club, above Shipleys games arcade in High Street, would have been turned into a late night bar and club. But councillors refused to grant a drinks licence for the club.

They had concerns about noise and anti-social behaviour from revellers.

Applicants Christopher Watson and Stephen Peters wanted a licence to serve alcohol and play live and recorded music at the premises until 2am. Mr Watson was disappointed by the decision.

Stourbridge Councillor Nic Barlow said he feared the town was already becoming more like Birmingham's Broad Street hotspot.

Prospect

He wants other late night attractions such as restaurants, to entice a range of people into the town. "Stourbridge needs more restaurants for families rather than just more nightclubs with the prospect of people being put off by more groups of young people," he said.

The club would have catered for up to 200 people. West Midlands Police told the committee that the club would have fallen within a designated area in the town which restricts further drinking establishments being opened unless they could commit to curbing anti-social behaviour.

Maggie's ghostly showing

A SERIES of cut-price movie screenings continues in the new year in Stourbridge.

The monthly Monday Matinees in the town hall begin at 1.30pm.

First up on January 11 is From Time to Time, a ghost story starring Maggie Smith.

Comedy drama Made in Dagenham will be shown on February 7.

It features Jaime Winstone as one of a group of sewing machinists to strike over pay and sexual discrimination in 1968 at the Ford Dagenham factory.

Action thriller Red is being screened on March 7, starring Helen Mirren, and Bruce Willis.

On April 4, The King's Speech starring Colin Firth tells the story of King George VI and his friendship with maverick speech therapist Lionel Logue.

Tickets cost £3. To book visit www.dudley.gov.uk/events or call 01384 812812.

Tribute night for Cash fans

FANS of country rock legend Johnny Cash can hear his songs brought to life by Clive John and The Spirit Band as they tour the UK.

The group will play some of Cash's best-loved hits including Ring of Fire.

They will be at Dudley Concert Hall on March 5.

New office for tenants

A NEW £210,000 office for Black Country tenants running their own estate is being opened.

Boscobel Tenant Management Organisation's new offices in Park Lane, Tipton will act as a point of contact for residents to pass on any concerns they may have to the tenants' organisation.

Pensioners living on the once-troubled estate decided to take control of the area earlier this year.

After seven years in the pipeline, official approval was finally given to Boscobel Tenants Management Organisation, meaning that the estate of 128 homes is now independent of the council.

Councillor Simon Hackett, Sandwell Council cabinet member for housing, said: "The tenants on the Boscobel Estate in Tipton asked to manage their own homes as a tenant management organisation.

"This is something that tenants can ask to do, using legislation in the Housing Acts usually known as 'the right to manage'."

Arrears over crisis loans now at £40m

JOBLESS people in the West Midlands are yet to pay back up to £40million handed out in short-term loans to help cover urgent bills.

Arrears on Job Centre 'crisis loans' in the UK rocketed by more than £110m to £437,488,000 in the 2009-10 financial year. The interest-free loans are paid out to cover urgent payments.

They are given in respect of such items as rent arrears, heating bills and general living expenses, but figures show the Department for Work and Pensions is waiting for substantial quantities of the money to be repaid.

A total of around £229m was paid out in crisis loans in 2009-10, up from £167m the year before.

The number of people seeking the emergency financial help in the West Midlands shot up by 37 per cent, involving £20m, over the same period.

Risk

The department declined to provide an exact figure for the arrears total in the West Midlands, but said loan payouts in the West Midlands account for nine per cent of the national bill. The amount paid out varies from case to case.

Repayment plans have to be agreed in advance, and applicants are warned that there must be "serious risk to the health and or safety of you, a member of your family, or someone you care for, if you do not get any money".

The Department for Work and Pensions said it is working hard to reclaim the arrears.

Sessions of sport on offer

FREE fitness sessions for youngsters will be staged at Halesowen College.

It is linking with nearby Newfield Park Primary School, in Whittingham Road, to offer after-school sporting activities every Tuesday.

Level two diploma sports students at the college will lead the sessions with support from their lecturers as part of the planning and leading unit of their diploma.

Rebecca Morgan, course leader for the diploma in sport at Halesowen College, said: "These free sessions come at a time when some sports funding nationally is being cut.

"This will be a great partnership, especially with the two sites being in the same road.

"The young children will get fit and experience new activities and our students will get first hand experience of planning and delivering games lessons."

For more details visit www.halesowen.ac.uk

Spin to win at leisure centre

Natasha Evans in the spinning studio at the Crystal Leisure Centre

EXTRA spinning classes will be running at Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre due to popular demand.

The static cycle classes, to burn calories, tone muscles, increase strength and endurance and improve energy, are led by a qualified instructor.

The one-hour sessions begin next week on Wednesdays from 6.45pm, Thursdays from 7.15pm and Sundays from 9am. They have been introduced because the existing classes on Wednesdays and Fridays have proved so popular.

Classes cost £5.20 per person with a 50 per cent reduction for Options+ members. Sessions are free to Options lifestyles members.

Anyone interested in taking part in fitness classes should call 01384 812800 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/sport for further details.

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Lion locomotive is on track for Hollywood

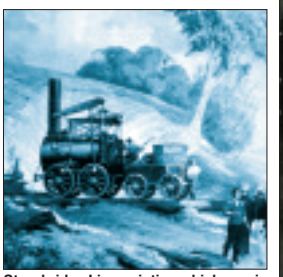
STOURBRIDGE'S pioneering steam locomotive is on track to feature in a film by Hollywood director Ridley Scott – thanks to two amateur film-makers from the town.

The Stourbridge Lion staked a place in history when it became the first steam locomotive to run on rails in America back in 1829.

Now amateur film-makers Chris Armfield and Gary Rogers have captured the history of the site where it was made and other images of Stourbridge for a global video project launched by Scott.

The scheme challenged film-makers across the world to gather footage from where they lived on a single day, July 24 this year.

The best footage will be chosen by the Hollywood director for inclusion in the film, creating a time capsule of what was happening in the world on that day.



Stourbridge Lion painting which was in the Delaware and Hudson office

Mr Armfield, aged 51, of Ballarat Walk, Stourbridge, and Mr Rogers, 41, of Wollaston, are delighted that their footage has made it to the last 100 hours of material to be considered out of more than 80,000 hours submitted by hopefuls around the world.

They will learn later this month if their footage has made it through to the final cut of the film which will premiere at the Sundance Film Festival.

They filmed at the town's Bonded Warehouse, in Canal Street, and the now derelict Foster, Rastrick & Co foundry, in Lowndes Road, where the Stourbridge Lion was made.

Sister

The locomotive earned its name from the picture of a lion's face that was painted on its front by the builder.

Although Stourbridge was not a major railway centre during the railway age, it did produce two locomotives of historical significance – the Lion and its sister engine Agenoria which still survives at the National Railway Museum in York.

Mr Armfield said: "We are both very proud of Stourbridge.

"Many Americans have heard of the Stourbridge Lion," he added.

"When we shot the footage, Gary was recovering from heart surgery and my leg was in plaster as I suffer from deep vein thrombosis.

"But we desperately wanted to take part."

The Stourbridge Lion, built in 1928, was one of the three Rastrick locomotives ordered by Delaware and Hudson Canal and Railroad.

It arrived in New York aboard the John Jay with two other locomotives in May 1929.

Chris Armfield and Gary Rogers outside the former Foster, Rastrick & Co building, Stourbridge, where they shot scenes

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Bongo basher Wagner gets hero's welcome back home

Fans fight for Wagner's attention at the star's homecoming gig

X Factor hero Wagner returned in triumph to sell out a gig at Stourbridge. Louise Jew reports

WACKY Wagner Carrilho wowed his devoted fans in his first West Midlands gig since leaving the X Factor – and pocketed £3,000 after singing just five numbers at Stourbridge's River Rooms.

It may seem bizarre, but this mediocre singer with winning ways from Pensnett now commands fees topping that at some of the venues he is playing.

"Not bad for someone who was struggling to get a job and was on incapacity benefit after three operations on his shoulder – walking miles with his arm in a sling to save the £1.50 bus fare," said Wagner, aged 54, after delighting a sell-out crowd of around 350 with his operatic warbling, bonkers bongo playing and energetic dancing.

He made a star's entrance on December 28, complete with burly minder who controlled all access to Wagner during the evening, making fans queue up for their turn to have their photos taken with their idol on stage at the end of the performance.

He lapped up the chants of "Wagner, Wagner" as he strutted around the stage, shaking hands with fans in the front row and announcing: "It's nice to be back home. When we are here the impression is the Black Country belongs to us."

He launched into "O Sole Mio" in a set accompanied by music tapes – but, unlike in X Factor, without backing dancers.

Melody

Then it was time for his bongo playing to shine as he beat up Beethoven's beautiful melody, "Fur Elise", murmuring a Barry White style "toujours l'amour" towards the end and rolling up his sleeves to reveal his tattooed forearms.

His versions of The Lambada, Jumping Jack Flash and Bob Dylan's Make you Feel My Love followed – and he ended up with a pair of red and white spotted knickers on his head, thrown to him by a fan.

The audience – many of whom had voted for him so that he survived in the X Factor until week eight – loved it all, declaring the £10 entry ticket well worth it.

"He blew me away," said Celyn Billingham, aged 23, of Bredon Avenue, Stourbridge. "I'm a massive fan – he's fun."

Andrew Fellows, aged 23, of Marl Road, Netherton, declared: "He was like a Pensnett Tom Jones."

Hayley Mason, aged 22, of Seven Dwellings View, Withymoor Village, Amblecote, Stourbridge, said: "I thought he was sexy".

And her friend, Emma Pinion, of Plants Hollow, Withymoor, decided Wagner was "fabulous – very hot".

Andy Matthews, aged 26, who lives in Hodnet Drive, Pensnett, close to Wagner's Blewitt Street home, said: "I'm deaf but can lip-read and love his act." Jon Taylor, aged 22, of Brookdale, Gornal, Dudley, said: "Wagner has made this area proud and it shows you don't have to be a stereotype to go far in this kind of competition."

And Keily McConnell, aged 22, of Lawnswood Road, Wordsley, said: "Wagner's wicked."

Excited

River Rooms owner Mark Ellis said: "We approached the X Factor about booking Wagner and were delighted and excited when he accepted.

"The fee was £3,000 – but it's well worth it when you consider we sold all the tickets and have had a good night on the bar."

Backstage, after a half-hour-long session in which his minder took photos of him with groups of fans, Wagner said he was now performing four or five gigs per week, each earning at least the £3,000 he was paid by the River Rooms

Fans greet X Factor star Wagner Carrilho

"Sometimes I do three gigs in a night," he said.

"Of course, I'm enjoying it and everywhere I have been I have had a good reception.

"I am working, which was my objective, because I was on benefits as I couldn't work as a karate teacher any more. I said 'I am going to sing' and that is what I am doing."

He added that he had not splashed out on any luxuries with his new-found wealth – but confessed he had bought a white rabbit, which he has named Mandy, after his friend Mandy Dhaliwal, who owns the Tasty Fish Bar in Pensnett.

He said he had given it to a young friend of his as a present.

He revealed he had spent Christmas Day having a lunch of lamb and duck with the family of another friend, Vanessa Stokes, of Buffery Road, Dudley.

And he added his best Christmas present was the "blessing of God".

At that stage, Wagner's ever-present minder leaped in to declare the interview was over.

Wagner is wicked, say Adele Hickman, Keily McConnell, Rebecca Smith and Jeni Love

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thechronicle

Bar facing closure as inquiry is requested

A VODKA bar set up without permission in a Black Country high street faces being shut down by the council following complaints from nearby residents.

AlteRego, situated above Prego Pizza in High Street, Kingswinford, has been open for months without the legal permission needed from the council.

Local councillors have called for an enquiry into how the bar was granted an alcohol licence when it didn't have a planning permit.

Council enforcement officers only discovered the bar when a member of the public complained about noise coming from the building.

The potential for legal action forcing the owners to remove all bar-related equipment and fittings will be discussed by councillors at a meeting on January 10.

Owner Jimmy Lee applied for retrospective planning permission in October but was refused due to the potential noise disturbance from the bar.

He has vowed to appeal any enforcement action and accused the council of being "all about the money".

Ramble to reveal park history

NATURE fans and history buffs are invited to kick-start the new year with a ramble around one of the Black Country's most historic landscapes.

Staff at The Leasowes park in Halesowen will be hosting a two-hour tour of the site on Saturday, showing visitors around the restored areas of the site – including the High Cascade water feature – along with some wildlife spotting and information on the history of the Grade I Listed landscape.

Assistant warden Ewan Chapman said the restoration work had helped return the nature reserve to how it would have looked in the late 1700s, when founder William Shenstone first set the park up.

He said: "We have dozens of species of bird, including kingfishers which most people don't usually see so it's a bit of a treat. We also have typical English woodland wildlife like foxes and badgers."

Those taking part can meet at the wardens' base on the car park, off Mucklow Hill at 10am.

Booking is essential. For more information, call 01384 814642.

Assistant warden Ewan Chapman prepares a path for ramblers, who will be shownthe High Cascade water feature at The Leasowes, Halesowen, and other sights

Phone mast bid hits first hurdle

RESIDENTS have won the first round of a battle to block plans for a 49ft phone mast at a gateway to Stourbridge.

People living near the proposed site at the junction of Bridgnorth Road and Lowndes Road in Wollaston feared the pole would be unsightly.

Planning officers at Dudley Council agreed the structure, which would have been operated by both 02 and Vodafone, would have a harmful impact on the area.

But applicant 02 confirmed it was likely to appeal against the decision, which would mean the Planning Inspector in Bristol would have the final say. The company wanted to install the pole with two equipment boxes and an electrical meter pillar. Ward Councillor Nicholas Barlow welcomed the council's decision to the refuse the plans.

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Maggie is talk of the town as she lifts charity hamper

Maggie Adams is presented with a Christmas hamper by, back from left, Talking Newspaper volunteers Pam Dowding and Julie Muckley, as well as HR manager at Sainsbury's, Debbie Gramann

A DUDLEY resident enjoyed a surprise Christmas present when she was named the winner of a Stourbridge charity's competition.

Maggie Adams won a hamper full of Christmas goodies in the competition, organised by the Black Country Talking Newspaper and Magazine.

Based in Stourbridge at the Mary Stevens Centre, the charity runs a free CD service for visually impaired people and is part of the Thomas Pockington Trust.

Sainsbury's, which chose the Talking Newspaper as its charity partner of the year in 2010, also donated items to the winning hamper including food and drink.

Maggie was presented with her prize by Julie Bate and Debbie Gramann from Sainsbury's, as well as Talking Newspaper volunteers Pam Dowding and Julie Muckley. Talking Newspaper coordinator Bronwen Hall said: "We are thrilled to be the charity partner of Sainsbury's and it's been fantastic working with such an enthusiastic and inspirational group of people."

For more details about the Talking Newspaper, which caters for 250 listeners, email src@pocklington-trust.org.uk or call 01384 440333.

Pair targeted charity shops in thefts spree

TWO shoplifters have avoided jail after going on a theft spree at charity shops in a Black Country town centre.

Tracey Brettle, aged 47, and Christopher Dixon, 45, stole clothes from four shops in Stourbridge during an afternoon. They were both given conditional discharges when they appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court on December 29.

Brettle received 18 months and Dixon 12 months.This means that they will not immediately be punished, but if they re-offend within those periods they will be sentenced for both these crimes and any new offences.

Both pleaded guilty to four counts of shoplifting and Dixon also admitted being in possession of amphetamines. The small bag of drugs was found in his sock when he was searched at Stourbridge Police Station after being arrested, said Mr Barry Sealeaf, prosecuting.

Schizophrenia

The pair took a £5 pair of men's shoes from Happy Staffie Rescue in Market Street, a £1.99 pair of men's slippers from Scope, also in Market Street, a men's polo shirt worth £4 from the Cats Protection League in High Street, and men's trousers costing £33.95 from the Extra Care Charitable Trust in the Crown Centre.

The pair, who are both unemployed, stole the clothes for Brettle's partner to wear at an appointment the next day with social services over gaining access to his son, said Mrs Amanda Tomkins, defending for Brettle. Dixon lives with Brettle and her partner at the home he owns in Spencer Court, Stourbridge, Mrs Tomkins said.

Staff at the Extra Care shop called police on December 15 after seeing the pair steal the trousers.

When police arrived, Dixon and Brettle had two carrier bags between them full of the stolen clothes, said Mr Sealeaf.

When questioned at the scene, they admitted that they were stolen, he said. Brettle and Dixon appeared separately in court on the same day.

Mr Phillip Haycock, defending for Dixon, told magistrates his client suffered from schizophrenia.

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Snow joke for the traditional hunts

The Albrighton Woodland Hunt at Hagley Hall

HARDY HUNTERS gathered for their traditional meetings amid scenes unchanged for hundreds of years – despite being hit by the big freeze.

The weather meant one of the biggest local hunts broke with tradition by leaving their horses behind.

The Albrighton Woodland Hunt started off on foot from the 350-acre Hagley Park, near Stourbridge, on Monday, December 27 with the horses left in stables.

Around 300 people gathered in front of Hagley Hall as 33 traditional English hunting dogs were prepared ready to lead off.

Pleased

Master huntsman Peter Swann said: "It was not safe to do the hunt with horses.

"With the hard ground and the snow it could have led to them injuring themselves," he added.

"It is frustrating but there was nothing we could do about the weather.

"We are so pleased with the turnout and it shows that we still have a lot of support," said Mr Swann.

The hunt followed its traditional path which spans from Bridgnorth down to the River Severn at Stourport and then eastwards to Bromsgrove, north to Wombourne and west back through Claverley.

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thechronicle

Tony has been a brick for 50 years

Retiring after 50 years, Tony Walters, right, with managing director Alex Patrick-Smith and staff cheering him on his way

BRICKMAKER Tony Walters is laying the foundations for a happy retirement after building a reputation as a loyal worker during 50 years with the same Black Country firm.

Staff turned out to cheer Mr Walters when he bowed out of his job at Hinton, Perry & Davenhill Ltd, Pensnett.

The 65-year-old was presented with a long service medal by the firm's managing director Alex Patrick-Smith.

"There have been so many great memories," Mr Walters said.

He started fresh from Pensnett Secondary Modern School, aged 15, helping out in the yard.

"It was tough as it was quite a physical job," he said."I remember walking past one day, and thought I'd ask if they had any work. The foreman said 'can you start Monday?' and off I went."

He began working in the pressworks at the firm, based in Dreadnought Lane.

Mr Patrick-Smith said: "It is a pleasure to have someone like Tony working for us ."

Mr Walters officially retired on Christmas Eve.

Criminal couple get sent to prison

A COUPLE of prolific Black Country criminals have each been jailed for 30 months after bungling two burglaries.

Robert Darby and his partner Sarah Ray tried to kick in the door of the home of an 86-year-old partially sighted woman, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week.

Mr David Lees, prosecuting, said: "She heard the banging and came down in the chair lift to shout at them through the closed door 'What do you want?'

The two escaped in a car.

Fifteen minutes after the incident in Green Acres, Sedgley, in October, they struck again in nearby Wolverhampton Road.

Found

This time they did batter down the door and got into the property but fled empty handed after being disturbed, Mr Lees added.

The burglar alarm keypad had been torn from the wall and 33-year-old Ray's fingerprints were found on the remains, the court heard.

They were arrested soon afterwards. She had a dozen previous convictions while Darby, 41, had been convicted of 131 offences. They admitted burglary and attempted burglary.

Sarah-Jayne Buckingham, defending, said the couple were drug users and had fallen behind with the rent on their flat in St Marks Road, Tipton.

Hospital wait

PATIENTS attending Dudley Group of Hospitals had an average referral waiting time of 10 weeks, with 97.4 per cent treated before the 18 week target, according to official figures.

School puts in plan for extension

PLANS for a two-storey extension to a Dudley school have been lodged with the council. Bishop Milner Roman Catholic School wants to create a new entrance and lobby as well as additional administration offices.

A medical room and a private room for visitors and parents will also be constructed at the Burton Road school, which does not have a medical room or quiet room where pupils can rest while suffering from minor injuries or illness. Pupils have to sit in the foyer while receiving treatment.

Dudley Council will be considered the plans in the coming months.

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Royal Mail pays out £600,000 on lost post

ROYAL MAIL paid out more than £600,000 compensation in just one year after tens of thousands of complaints about lost and damaged post in the West Midlands and Staffordshire, latest figures reveal.

Payouts rose by £133,000 in 2009-10, fuelled by a significant increase in Sandwell and Birmingham where the bill for compensation topped £441,000.

The payouts follow 54,000 complaints resulting in 29,000 payments at an average of £18.

Data for the B, WV, WS, DY and ST postcodes covering the Black Country, Birmingham, Kidderminster and Staffordshire areas shows that most complaints in the region are about lost mail, but other payouts follow damage, delays or delivery to an incorrect addresses.

Ratio

Dudley, Stourbridge and Kidderminster residents made 4,300 complaints at a cost of £35,000, while the ST postcode covering Stafford, Stone and north Staffordshire saw £86,965 paid for 9,800 complaints.

In Wolverhampton 6,000 complaints resulted in payments of £44,000, while in the WS post code for Walsall, Cannock and Lichfield there were 5,400 complaints costing the Royal Mail £49,000.

About 54 per cent of all complaints resulted in a payout with the highest payments to complaints ratio in Walsall, Cannock and Lichfield at 57 per cent.

The figures were released as the government plans to privatise the institution in a bid to turn around its fortunes.

Students play Santa at hospital

Spreading Christmas cheer at the hosptial, from left: Students Danni Cooper and Natalie Lloyd, Catherine Hickman, from Dudley police, Jack Stevenson and students Abigail Pickerell and Lucy Mansell

SCHOOLCHILDREN from Sedgley helped local community support officers to spread some festive cheer.

Pupils from High Arcal School collected gifts and visited a local care home and hospital to hand out presents to those in need.

Children, accompanied by PCSO Emilie Foster, from the Upper Gornal and Woodsetton neighbourhood team. She spent time chatting with people and discussing local issues before giving out Christmas gifts on behalf of the community.

Toys were given out to children at Russells Hall Hospital. The pupils also visited elderly residents of Island Court Nursing Home, Brook Street, Woodsetton. PCSO Foster said: "It was lovely to see the young and elderly getting together as we tried to spread some Christmas cheer around the area.

"The youngsters at the hospital, and their families, were happy to see our little group and the whole initiative seems to have been well received."

Talking about history

PEOPLE can delve into the past at a series of history talks in Dudley in the new year.

Historian Terry Church will visit Dudley Library to look back at the year 1942.

He will reminisce on his experiences and memories of the year on January 26. Stourbridge Library will welcome Dr Peter King, on January 28 to present on the Stourbridge canal and River Stour.

He will give his talk in the Wollaston room at Stourbridge Town Hall.

New help for homeless

A WEBSITE to help people who are homeless or at risk of losing their home has been launched.

Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton councils have teamed up for www.homelessblackcountry.org – a resource for people who are facing homelessness as well as for professionals who provide homelessness advice and assistance.

Councillor David Simms, Dudley cabinet member for housing, said: "It's another way of providing help and advice to people 24 hours a day."

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Battle over parking permits

HOSPITAL staff are having to compete for permits to use a new £6million multi-storey car park in Dudley, leaving some living up to five miles away without a space.

The new rules over who qualifies for a parking space at Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, have sparked anger from workers who have missed out. Staff living within a mile of the hospital have already been told they will not qualifyin a bid to encourage them to walk or use public transport.

But one worker said staff living up to five miles away had been refused permits while some within walking distance had been given a parking place.

The 691-space multi-storey is now open, having been built to ease congestion on streets near the hospital.

Hospital bosses said permits had been allocated on a set of criteria which took other factors as well as distance into account.

Priority

They said priority had been given to on-call workers, shift workers, permanent night workers and disabled staff.

Workers who had to catch three or more buses or trains and where it would take more than an hour to get to work using public transport were also given priority.

But the worker, who did not wish to be named, said: "Not only am I not allowed to use this but I am not permitted to use any car park at the hospital.

"I start my shift every day at around 7am and live five miles away. The earliest bus would not get me there on time."

Paula Clarke, chief executive of the Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "The criteria was how often staff used their cars, how far away they live and the feasibility of using public transport. Priority was given to those who would have to catch three or more buses or trains or those for who it would take more than one hour to get in using public transport."

Pupils to bring in the cash

SCHOOLS in the Black Country and Staffordshire will get an extra £430 for each poor pupil they take next year.

Under the Government's pupil premium scheme, schools will receive the money for every pupil whose parents have an annual income of less than £16,000. Headteachers will be encouraged to spend the money they get on reducing class sizes, or on more one-to-one tuition.

The biggest slice of the money will go to Sandwell in September 2011, with schools receiving £4.5m.

Around 10,500 children are entitled to free school meals in the borough.

Schools in Dudley will be allocated £3.6m for the 8,400 pupils who qualify.

In the first year the policy will cost the government £625m and that will rise to £2.5bn by 2014.

Councils rake in £3m fines bonanza

COUNCILS in the West Midlands raked in almost £3million in parking fines in one year, it has been revealed. Bosses have defended the figures.

They insist the fines are not just a money-making exercise. Sandwell Council pulled in £840,882 in the 2009/10 financial year. The authority issued a total of 32,732 penalty notices.

In the previous year it collected slightly less, £845,153, when 29,906 fines were issued.

Councillor Derek Rowley, Sandwell Council's neighbourhoods chief, said: "The point isn't about making money.

"Proper parking arrangements help keep our roads as congestion-free and safe as possible."

In Dudley there were 14,058 tickets issued in 2009/10, bringing in £378,861. Between April 1 this year until November 30, £238,148.50 has been raised from 9,108 fines being handed out.

Wolverhampton collected £581,973 in 2009/10 and issued 21,410 fixed penalty notices.

Council spokesman Tim Clark said: "Parking enforcement is about keeping Wolverhampton moving and tackling the problem of illegal and inconsiderate parking."

In Cannock Chase 2,898 fines were issued over the same period. In the Stafford borough, 5,593 on-street fines were issued in 2009/10, bringing in £311,014.

Laura likes the TV show reject

HIS Black Country accent and job as a rat catcher failed to find favour with girls looking for love on a TV dating show.

But Christan Hems is all smiles after his finding love closer to home.

The 39-year-old, of Wordsley, Stourbridge, starred on ITV Saturday night show Take Me Out this month.

Viewers saw the pest controller rejected by 30 girls trying to find a date in the show which has the catchphrase "no likey, no lighty".

But Christan has found a perfect girlfriend in Stourbridge nursery assistant Laura Evans.

They met just before the show was recorded in October.

"I'm really happy now and wasn't sorry at all not to get a date," he said.

Passion

"She likes me for who I am and what I do," he added.

The father-of-one says his Black Country accent and passion for his job clearing the streets of vermin did him no favours on the show.

It features men who compete in turn for a date with 30 single women who turn off a light on their stand if they don't like what they see – giving presenter Paddy McGuinness his catchphrase.

Christan took the chance to appear on the show after the producers got in touch with his firm Pestforce asking for single men to take part.

"My girlfriend of six years had just left me, and by chance the producers had called up, and the boss asked if I'd like to do it," said Christian, of Harrison Road, Wordsley.

" As I was single I thought why not?" he added.

But just before he was due to go on the show he met Laura Evans, 26, during a night out at the Que Pasa nightclub in Stourbridge.

Mother-of-two Laura said: "I was a bit jealous to begin with but I realised that it was only a bit of fun and let him get on with it."

It seemed that love was on the cards for Christan as just five lights out of 30 went out in the first round.

But Cupid didn't seem to be looking his way as the second round kicked off with a video showing his day job.

"I think the video didn't really endear me to them," he said.

He found he was down to five girls, and after some final questions and banter, he was left high and dry as they turned off their lights.

Take Me Out contestant Christan Hems with his new girlfriend Laura Evans

Christan Hems with gameshow host Paddy McGuinness on the ITV show

Christan Hems with his son Ricky Pilling

Uphill task as race drivers get the tuition

A MOTOR sport club in Hagley celebrating its 75th anniversary this year plans to launch a school for budding racing drivers.

Hagley & District Light Car Club will run the driving schools at its hill climb venue in the grounds of a Shropshire stately home.

Experienced instructors will guide pupils in the fast-growing sport of hillclimbing, covering all aspects from timing procedures to safety and vehicle preparation.

The sessions will be run under the guidance of the Association of Sprint & Hill Climb Schools.

The courses will take place at Loton Park in the grounds of Sir Michael Leighton's stately home, near Shrewsbury. Anyone interested in taking part should send an email to martynsilcox@yahoo.co.uk

Tribute concert set to honour tragic marine

A TRIBUTE concert in honour of drummer and Black Country Royal Marine Jonathan Crookes will be held in the spring.

Marine Crookes, aged 26, of Halesowen, was killed in an explosion in Helmand Province in Afghanistan in July. The 26-year-old was a drummer in rock group Distant Signal and his bandmates are planning a fundraising show in aid of Help for Heroes.

The band originally planned to do a charity concert when Marine Crookes returned from Afghanistan. The soldier, a reservist in 40 Commando Royal Marines, was killed while on foot patrol on July 16.

The ban are now planning to hold a charity concert in his honour and has enlisted one of his friends, Pete Martin, to fill in on drums.

Guitarist Mark Cooper, aged 29, said: "We'll be going into the studio first to record some songs and then doing the gig some time in the spring."

Publishing

The band includes Adam Poole, 26, and Paul Baker, 28 All were friends from Earls High School in Halesowen.

Mr Cooper, a publishing editor formerly of Waxland Road, Halesowen, and now living in Basingstoke, said the band had packed out venues in the past. Marine Crookes, who also studied at King Edward VI College in Stourbridge, joined the Royal Marines Reserve in 2005 and was awarded the Commando Dagger for the best all-round recruit during training.

A part-time international relations student at Aston University in Birmingham, he also worked as a tree surgeon and labourer. Marine Crookes' funeral was held in August, and hundreds of mourners lined the streets of Halesowen.

Among those saying their goodbyes at St John the Baptist Church in High Street were his mother Susan, who was joined by his brother Robert, sister Jane and fiancee Danni Davis.

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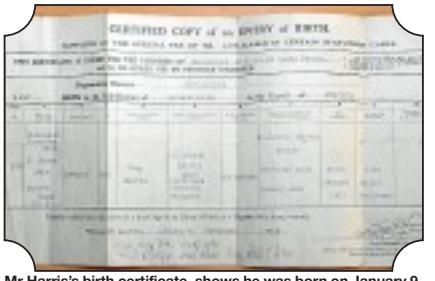
A snapshot of the Garrison Military Police in Abbassia, in 1937, with Mr Harris second from the left on the back row



Mr Harris's birth certificate, shows he was born on January 9, 1917, in Bower Lane, Quarry Bank

Roland Harris on horseback

Discovered, a suitcase packed full of memories

Some of the photographs, including family shots which do not include Rowland Harris

A SUITCASE containing poignant letters from a Black Country soldier who died aged 26 in the Second World War has been discovered in a Dudley care home.

The stash of documents, which also included photos, was found in the loft of Alexandra House, Pensnett, when a maintenance worker was searching for Christmas decorations.

They reveal details of the army career of Rowland Harris, from Dudley, dating back to when he signed up in 1934 to his death in 1942.

In a series of letters sent by the former Quarry Bank Council School pupil to his mother while he was on service, he assured her that he would soon return, but it appears he never did.

While the documentation shows the gunner in the Royal Regiment of Artillery began serving in Egypt in 1936, it also reveals a statement of his death from the army which says he was killed by "enemy air fire" in the Middle East Battle on March 31, 1942. He was buried at a military cemetery in Halfaya Sollum, Egypt, and a photo of the grave was sent to his family.

It is thought that the mystery case belonged to his mother Elizabeth, who died in 1953, before being passed on to his sister Dora. It is not known if she is still alive, but staff at the care home believe she once stayed there.

In a note Mr Harris sent on January 1, 1941 to his mother's home at Bower Lane, Quarry Bank, he says: "Mother, I am perfectly alright now, but have been in hospital for a few weeks with nose trouble, but everything is running smoothly once more.

Fears

"The war won't last forever so don't be surprised if one day you see me again come up the garden path and I'll be much the same."

Another message passed on Mr Harris' congratulations to his brother John after his first son was born, while expressing fears over his hair loss due to stress.

Written on August 13, 1938, it reads: "John says that the baby features me but I doubt it because my hair is steadily falling out and I have tried all sorts of hair restorers but without any success.

"Never mind, I suppose I shall retain it when I return to England.

"I hope to be in England in 15 months time. I know it is rather a long wait for us all but I still have a service here to accomplish."

Another note speaks of the increase in the cost of living in Britain due to the war and his concerns that his mother would not cope on her own.

Mr Harris writes: "I got your correspondence yesterday and I'm pleased to hear you got the money alright.

"Mother, please don't send me anything for I can acquire everything here much cheaper than you earn at home.

"I also know that nowadays a penny costs a shilling so I implore you not to send me anything. If you should ever need anything let me know and everything I have is yours."

The case also holds a number of photos of Mr Harris on service including a group photo of the Garrison Military Police in Abbassia in 1937. Staff at the care home are now hoping to trace his family and are appealing for them or anyone with information to get in touch.

Naomi Jones, care manager at the home, said: "These need to be in the care of someone related to him.

"Some of these letters are so sad and they would help the family learn about this man's life."

If you are related to Mr Harris or have any information call Alexandra House on 01384 77441.

The suitcase found in the loft at Alexandra House – at the top are two wallets with Egyptian print and, right, the inside of one of the wallets with a photograph of Rowland Harris during his army days

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When canals cut the way for industry

A steam train gets diverted along the Bumble Hole Line in the early 1960s

The Baptist End Halt on the Bumble Hole Line, pictured in August 1962

In many ways the face of Netherton today has been shaped by the various kinds of transport used in the past.

The canals made a big difference to the area by paving the way for industrial growth.

According to the book Netherton by historian Ned Williams many of the major works were built with a view to being served by the canal.

The opening of an 11-mile stretch of waterway spurred a colliery revival.

The launch of the Dudley No 2. canal in May 1798 revived works around Netherton.

Other methods of transport have also had an impact on Netherton.

The construction of the turnpike road leading from Dudley to Halesowen and on to Bromsgrove is what put Netherton on the map in the first place while residential development in Netherton at the end of the 19th century was helped by the electric tramway.

Meanwhile 20th century housing schemes prompted the Midland Red company to provide more services to Netherton. These days the road network is the quickest way to get around Netherton but images from Mr Williams' book show how busy the canals were in years gone by.

An image from the book dating back to April 1984 shows a large group of people celebrating after restoration work was completed near the Netherton Tunnel to solve subsidence issues which first flared in 1902.

Trevor Luckcuck, from the British Waterways Board, reopened the tunnel in a boat-based ceremony in 1984.

The tunnel opened in August 1858 and provided direct access from the Dudley No.2 canal to the rest of the Birmingham Canal Navigation's System at Tividale.

One of Netherton's forgotten means of transport is the old railway line. In the early 1960s, mainline trains were often diverted along the tracks via the Bumble Hole line, which ran between Dudley and Old Hill.

Trains would stop at Baptist End Halt and Darby End Halt, as well as a proper station at Windmill End when the line opened in 1878.

● *Pictures and information supplied by Netherton by Ned Williams*

Part of Dudley NO.2 Canal to Worcester and Birmingham Canal in 1905

British Waterways' Trevor Luckcuck reopens Netherton Tunnel in 1984

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thechronicle

Delight as fans take Communion with supergroup

SUPERGROUP Black Country Communion rocked Wolverhampton Civic Hall for their debut gig.

The band took to the stage in front of 3,000 fans.

It was only the second time Cannock-born Glenn Hughes, of Deep Purple and Black Sabbath, and Dudley-born Jason Bonham, son of Led Zeppelin drummer John, had brought the group together after a behind-closed doors gig in the summer, ***writes Mike Woods.***

The group, along with with American guitar virtuoso Joe Bonamassa and former Dream Theatre keyboard player Derek Sherinian, released their debut album in September.

They set their heart on playing in the Black Country as soon as the band's name was picked.

Fans Martyn Todd, Mark Fisher, Allan Todd, Miranda Todd

Plaques

Hughes said by email after the gig: "I have felt so proud to have our first show at a venue where it all started for me. We are buzzin' about the show on the tour bus."

Just before the gig, Bonham and Hughes were inducted into Wolverhampton's Rock Wall of Fame with plaques bearing their names added to the wall at the Civic Hall.

Speaking before the show 44-year-old Bonham said: "It means a lot to me. To be recognised like that, you feel a sense of achievement.

"My grandfather would be so proud that I've been recognised in my home county.

"It's fantastic to be at the Civic and from the moment we called it Black Country Communion, we knew we had to play here."

Bonham is no stranger to the venue, having played there with UFO in 2004 and Foreigner the following year.

He said: "I've been to see loads of bands here and it's a huge place for me. It's a very cool venue and it's always better to have all-standing gigs."

Wolverhampton Mayor Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett who was also at the December 29 event to mark the band members' induction into the hall of fame, said: "It's a fantastic thing for Wolverhampton.

"We've already got a sporting hall of fame and we really needed a pop hall of fame because we've had fantastic bands in this area over the years."

Fans travelled from around the country to see the show. They included electrical contractor Mike Carroll, aged 54, from Southport, who made the journey with his 19-year-old son James.

Mr Carroll Snr said: "I felt compelled to come because of the line-up. I just wanted to hear Black Country Communion at a Black Country gig."

Concrete firm worker Andy Whitworth, aged 37, travelled from Halifax for the show. He said: "I'm a big fan of John and Glenn and I really dig what they are doing with the band."

Environmental worker Sara Latham, aged 37, from Stafford Road, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton, said: "I'm a big fan of Joe Bonamassa. I like the music because it's different and because it's heavy but it's not just a loud noise. They are real musicians instead of a boy band."

Miranda Todd, aged 26, from Bearwood, was there with her father Alann, 61.

He said: "I was into the whole Led Zeppelin music scene." Miss Todd said: "My dad got me into this music. It's brilliant and Joe Bonamassa is a great artist."

Glenn Hughes and Joe Bonamassa perform

Mayor Malcolm Gwinnett, Glenn Hughes and Jason Bonham

Molten metal flows as band makes a triumphant return

Black Country Communion, Wolverhampton Civic Hall.

THE Black Country has a new band to claim as its own, one firmly in the tradition of Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath and Judas Priest.

The region established on the pounding of metal had plenty of pounding metal to celebrate when the supergroup came home for their first official gig after storming to the top of the rock charts with self-titled debut album Black Country Communion.

Former Trapeze and Deep Purple rocker Glenn Hughes has swapped home in Cannock for southern California, and gained a transAtlantic drawl, but the "voice of rock" was in fine form at the venue where he first performed 40 years earlier.

Joining him was Dudley-born Jason Bonham, a great drummer like his late father, the Led Zep sticksman John; and two Americans, guitarist Joe Bonamassa and keyboardist Derek Sherinian.

Ticket time: Black Country Communion fans Wayne Kenward, Matthew Kutas, Kate Kutas and Charlotte Wood

From the moment Hughes' thunderous bassline introduced the band's anthem Black Country, the song which topped and tailed the gig, the sell-out audience knew they were in for something special.

The combination of four great talents gelled to perfection. Hughes can still hit notes only previously attained by scalded cats with apparent ease and his fluid, funky bass makes the molten metal flow. The sharp-dressed Bonamassa plays with a masterful eloquence that makes him a candidate for best blues rock guitarist of his era. Sherinian has a Ray Manzarek-like touch on the keys. But the heartbeat of the band is Bonham's propulsive drumming.

Highlights of the 90-minute set included the bluesy Beggarman, an extended version of Too Late For The Sun and Bonamassa star vehicles Song of Yesterday and The Ballad of John Henry.

Then BCC turned back the clock for Trapeze opus Medusa and, in tribute to John Bonham, a version of Led Zep's No Quarter. Sista Jane was delivered with a Stones-like swagger before the band returned to encore with a scorching version of Deep Purple's Burn.

The crowd seemed reluctant to leave until Hughes promised that the band would return in the summer to commune some more. ***Leon Burakowski***

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DERREN BROWN: BEHIND THE MISCHIEF
(Ch4, 9pm).

This may be an excuse for Channel 4 to re-screen a few Derren Brown reports, but there are some jaw-dropping goodies here and there. New one-off Behind the Mischief will celebrate the man and his amazing series, specials and events. Unprecedented access is given for the first time to his above cameras, behind the scenes and into his private life to meet his family, friends and closest collaborators. Celebrity fans, including Stephen Merchant, Matt Lucas, Simon Pegg, Bill Bailey, Simon Callow and Jo Whiley give their insights.

BBC1

9.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 1.00 Live Athletics. Coverage of the Great Edinburgh Cross-Country race at Holyrood Park. 2.30 Live Darts: BBC World Championships. The first semi-final at the Lakeside Country Club. 4.30 Final Score. 5.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 5.20 The Impressions Show with Culshaw and Stephenson. (R)

6.00 All Star Family Fortunes. New series. Adventure game show, hosted by Richard Hammond and Amanda Byram.

7.00 The Kingdom. With Peter Jones, Ade Edmondson and Amanda Byram.

8.00 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Quiz show, including the all-important numbers.

8.30 Casualty. A confrontation between Adam and Warren spells trouble for Kirsty.

9.30 Come Fly with Me. Airport documentary spoof, starring Matt Lucas and David Walliams. (R)

10.10 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.30 FILM: National Treasure: Book of Secrets. (2007) Adventure sequel starring Nicolas Cage, Helen Mirren, Ed Harris, Harvey Keitel and Jon Voight. Weather.

12.40 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 12.00 The Sky at Night. (R) 12.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 1.05 Trust Me I'm a Doctor. 1.35 Escape to the Country. (R) 2.20 Film: Gigi. (1958) Oscar-winning musical, starring Leslie Caron. 4.30 Live Darts: BBC World Championships. The second semi-final at the Lakeside Country Club.

6.30 The Great Family on A Life. Gordon Buchanan follows a family of wild black bears for a year.

7.30 The Sinking of the Laconia: Survivors' Stories. The personal testimonies of six survivors of the 1942 disaster.

8.00 Shooting the Hollywood Stars.

9.00 QI XL. An extended version of the quiz with a difference. (R)

9.45 FILM: The Kite Runner. (2007) Premiere. A writer returns to his home country of Afghanistan to find a friend's missing son and atone for a childhood betrayal. Drama, starring Khalid Abdalla and Atossa Leoni.

11.45 Three Men Go to Scotland. Rory McGrath, Dara O Briain and Griff Rhys Jones head to the Highlands and Islands. (R)

12.45 Film: Lonesome Jim. (2005) Comedy drama, starring Casey Affleck. 2.10 Film: One Magic Christmas. (1985) Family drama, starring Mary Steenburgen. 4.00 Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: The Mighty Ducks. 7.25 Toonattik. 8.25 Coronation Street. 10.05 This Morning: Saturday. 12.15 ITV News; Weather. 12.30 Live FA Cup Football. Arsenal v Leeds United (Kick-off 12.45pm). 3.30 Athletes Do the Funniest Things. (R) 4.25 Film: Star Wars Episode I – The Phantom Menace. (1999) Sci-fi prequel, starring Liam Neeson and Ewan McGregor.

6.55 Regional Programmes.

6.58 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 Harry Hill's the Best of TV Burp.

7.00 Primeval. Matt inadvertently rescues a mysterious woman trying to flee through an anomaly, and the pair are later forced to undergo a terrifying confrontation with a deadly airborne dinosaur.

8.00 Take Me Out. An actor, a Michael Jackson impersonator, an office manager and a roller blind fitter try to impress 30 single women, and last week's couples go on their dates.

9.15 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Cheryl Cole. The X Factor judge talks about her divorce and battle with malaria. (R)

10.15 ITV News; Weather.

10.30 FA Cup Highlights.

12.00 The Cube: Celebrity Special. 1.00 The Zone: Shopping and interactive gaming. ITV News Headlines. 2.00 The Border Line. 3.20 ITV Nightscreen. 5.40 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 GT Academy. (R) 7.25 Freesports on 4. 7.55 The Morning Line. 8.55 T4: Live and Loud. (R) 9.25 T4: Friends. (R) 9.50 T4: Friends. (R) 10.55 T4: The Great Hanset: T4 Movie Special. 12.30 T4: Famous and Fearless. (R) 1.30 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.55 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.20 Channel 4 Racing. 4.00 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 4.25 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 5.05 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 5.40 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R)

6.10 Channel 4 News.

6.27 Missing Links.

6.30 FILM: Iron Man. (2008) An arms manufacturer invents a hi-tech suit of armour and uses it in the fight against evil across the globe. Superhero adventure, starring Robert Downey Jr and Jeff Bridges.

7.00 Derren Brown: Behind the Mischief. An insight into the illusionist's life.

9.00 Derren Brown: Viewers' Choice. A classic programme as selected by the illusionist's fans.

11.10 Derren Brown: Enigma. The illusionist's performance at the New Wimbledon Theatre in London. (R)

12.30 Film: Beyond the Valley of the Dolls. (1970) Comedy, with Dolly Read. 2.40 Dirty Sexy Money. (R) 3.25 The Contender. (R) 3.20 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 4.20 Beauty and the Geek. (R) 5.05 Soil Mate. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 K-O. 10.45 Great Rum Review 2010. 11.45 Demolition: The Super Stadium. (R) 12.45 Greatest Last Secrets Revealed. (R) 1.45 Film: The Comancheros. (1961) John Ford's Western, starring John Wayne. 4.00 Film: The Naked Spur. (1953) Western, starring James Stewart. 5.40 Film: Brannigan. (1975) Detective thriller, starring John Wayne.

7.30 Five News.

7.35 NCIS. Abby appears to be on Halloween, wounding a Marine sergeant and snatching his daughter, while Abby surprises everyone by turning up at the lab in a revealing fancy dress costume. (R)

8.45 CSI: Miami. Horatio is shocked to learn that the prime suspect in a murder and hostage case may be his son.

9.30 CSI: NY. New series. The team celebrates when Lindsay receives a medal for bravery and new recruit Jo Danville finds a dead body in the crime lab on her first day in the role.

10.30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A man dressed as an alien is found dead. (R)

11.25 Fantastic Flicks. (R)

12.25 SuperCasino. 4.00 Nick's Quest. (R) 4.30 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.30 Hannah's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.15 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
5.00 Take Me Out. 6.55 Film: Catwoman. (2004) 9.00 Film: Die Another Day. (2002) James Bond spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan. 11.40 Bedlam. 12.00 The Comedy Annual 2010. 1.00 Film: Hot Fuzz. (2007) Action comedy, starring Simon Pegg.

ITV3
6.30 A Touch of Frost. 8.00 Inspector Morse. 10.00 Rosemary & Thyme. 11.00 Midsomer Murders. 12.00 Murder in Suburbia.

ITV4
5.00 Film: The Appaloosa. (1966) 6.50 Film: The Great Outdoors. (1988) 7.00 The Professionals. 8.00 Minder. 9.00 Ultimate Force. 10.05 Film: A Dangerous Man. (2009)

BBC THREE
7.00 Film: Cars. (2006) 9.00 Film: The Iron Giant. (1999) Brad Bird's animated adventure, with the voice of Craig T Nelson. 10.30 Live at the Apollo. 11.30 Family Guy.

BBC FOUR
7.00 Penelope Keith and the Fast Lady. 8.00 Timeshift: The Golden Age of Coach Travel. 9.00 The Secret Life of Bob Monkhouse. 10.20 Chanel. 11.20 Film: Girl with a Pearl Earring. (2003)

E4
6.00 Hollyoaks. 8.00 Make It or Break It. 8.00 Friends. 8.30 The Big Bang Theory. 9.00 How I Met Your Mother. 10.30 Friends. 10.00 The Greatest TV Shows of the Noughties. 11.05 The Greatest Songs of the Noughties.

FILM4
3.00 Honey, I Blew Up the Kid. (1992) 4.45 Speed 2: Cruise Control. (1997) 7.15 Tower & Hooch. (1989) Comedy, starring Tom Hanks. 9.00 My Super Ex-Girlfriend. (2006) Fantasy comedy, starring Uma Thurman. 11.00 Cronos. (1993) Horror, starring Federico Luppi.

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Sunday TV

Choice

WILD AT HEART

(ITV1, 8.30pm).

We're only just over a week into the new year, but Sundays are already feeling rather warm and cosy. Over on BBC One, Lark Rise to Candleford is back, and ITV1 is not only launching a new series of Dancing on Ice, but also Wild at Heart. Yes, you may have thought it had just about run its course, but no – and the twist at the start of the opening episode is that the action does not take place in the usual South African setting, but that everyone has decamped to London. Danny and Alice are on honeymoon there, and he uses the time to meet up with his estranged father Robert, who deserted him 30 years ago after leaving his mother. Stephen Tompkinson stars.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Country Tracks. **12.00** BBC News. **12.10** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.05** Bargain Hunt: Famous Finds. (R) **1.50** EastEnders. **3.20** Polar Bear: Spy on the Ice. (R) **4.20** Songs of Praise. **5.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.40** Jimmy's Food Factory. (R)

6.30 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team visit The Sage Gateshead, where they examine a photograph and [illegible]. (R)

7.30 Countryfile. Julia Bradbury and Adam Henson visit Lancashire.

8.00 Lark Rise to Candleford. New series. Dorcas is intrigued by a newcomer to Candleford.

9.00 Zen. The death of an aristocrat prompts Zen to investigate a secretive organisation – but powerful figures seem determined to keep the truth hidden. Drama, starring Rufus Sewell.

10.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.50 [illegible]. Fern and Mark host a late and early night. (R)

11.25 FILM: Serendipity. (2001) Drama, starring Kate Beckinsale; [illegible].

12.55 Sign Zone: Coast. (R) **1.55** Holby City. (R) **2.55** Donald Trump: All-American Billionaire. (R) **4.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.40** Something for the Weekend. **11.30** Film: A Distant Trumpet. (1964) Western, starring Troy Donahue. **1.55** Live Snooker: The Masters. Mark Selby v Mark King. **3.00** Ski Sunday. **3.45** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. The final at the Lakeside Country Club.

8.00 Coast. Team explore the Inner and Outer Hebrides. (R)

9.00 Arctic with Bruce Parry. The explorer discovers how Inuit communities in the far north of Greenland rely on traditional hunting, and learns how global warming is transforming the lives of Arctic natives.

10.00 FILM: The Men Who Stare at Goats. (2009) Premiere. A journalist posted to Iraq learns the bizarre story of a covert experiment to train soldiers with psychic powers. Satirical comedy with George Clooney, Ewan McGregor and Kevin Spacey.

11.30 Three Men Go to Scotland. Comedians Rory McGrath, Dara O Briain and Griff Rhys Jones continue their adventure in the Hebrides, visiting Fingal's Cave and Britain's most remote pub. (R)

12.30 Snooker: The Masters. **1.20** Snooker Extra. **4.00** BBC News. **4.30** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: The Fluffy Club. **7.25** Toonattik. **9.25** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **9.55** FA Cup Highlights. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.40** This Morning Sunday. **12.30** You've Been Framed! (R) **1.00** Live FA Cup Football. Manchester United v Liverpool (Kick-off 1.30pm). **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.40** Harry Hill's the Best of TV Burp. (R)

6.30 Regional Programmes.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Dancing on Ice. New series. In a change from previous years, Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby preside over the first of two rounds in which viewers choose the line-up for the main competition. The results can be seen at 9.30pm.

8.30 Wild at Heart. New series. Danny agrees to meet his estranged father Robert (Warren Clarke).

9.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off. The three least popular couples have to skate again.

10.15 That Sunday Night Show. New series. The past seven days' biggest news stories, with Adrian Chiles and guests.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.00 FA Cup Highlights. Action from the day's third round ties.

12.00 Premiership Rugby Union. **12.55** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **3.00** October Road. (R) **3.55** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** The Great Sports Series. (R) **7.35** T4: Live and Loud. (R) **8.05** T4: Friends. (R) **9.00** T4: Friends. (R) **9.30** T4: Hollyoaks. **11.50** T4: 4Music Meets Glee. (R) **12.55** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **2.25** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **2.55** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **3.25** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **4.00** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **4.30** Deal or No Deal. **5.15** Film: Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging. (2008) Premiere. Comedy drama, starring Georgia Groome.

7.00 Channel 4 News.

7.55 4thought.tv.

8.00 Dispatches: The Battle for Haiti. Efforts to recapture convicts who escaped prison during Haiti's 2010 earthquake.

9.00 FILM: Run, Fat Boy, Run. (2007) A man who regrets leaving his fiancee standing at the altar tries to prove his love for her by running the London Marathon. Romantic comedy, starring Simon Pegg and Thandie Newton.

10.55 Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2010. Teams of celebrities answer questions on the year just gone. (R)

12.50 Newlyweds: The One Year Itch. (R) **1.55** My Weird & Wonderful Family. (R) **2.30** Lucky Escape. (R) **3.25** Coming Up: Would Like to Meet. **3.55** Enough. **4.30** Wedding House. **5.20** Brothers & Sisters. **6.10** ER. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.35** Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. (R) **6.50** The Beeps. (R) **7.00** Milo. (R) **7.05** Chloe. (R) **7.15** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **7.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.30** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** The WotWots. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** Castle Farm. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Fantasy. (R) **8.30** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.45** Olivia. (R) **9.15** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.30** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **10.00** K-9. **10.45** The Archie Fun Story. (R) **11.00** How Do They Do It? (R) **11.30** There's a Rhino in My House. (R) **12.30** Titanic: The True Story. (R) **1.30** Film: Mary Higgins Clark's Remember Me. (1995) Psychological thriller, starring Kelly McGillis. **3.25** Film: The Princess Bride. (1987) Comic fantasy adventure, starring Cary Elwes. **5.15** Five News. **5.20** Film: Dr Dolittle 2. (2001) Comedy sequel, starring Eddie Murphy.

7.05 FILM: Charlie's Angels. (2000) Adventure with Drew Barrymore.

9.00 FILM: The Long Kiss Goodnight. (1996) Action thriller, starring Geena Davis.

11.20 FILM: Until Death. (2007)

1.20 SuperCasino. **4.00** Nick's Quest. (R) **4.30** Miracle Moments. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.25** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2

6.00 Dancing on Ice Final **8.00** Take Me Out [illegible] Film: [illegible] **9.00** Film: The Last Samurai (2003)

ITV3

4.50 A Touch of Frost **6.40** Film: Are You Being Served? (1977) **8.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** The Return of Sherlock Holmes **10.00** Foyle's War **12.00** Film: Sherlock Holmes: Hands of a Murderer (1990)

ITV4

4.45 Film: [illegible] **5.00** Film: 633 Squadron (1964) **7.30** The Sweeney **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.40** Film: Driven to Kill (2009) **11.40** Film: The Beast (1988)

BBC THREE

7.00 Doctor Who **8.00** Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out **8.30** Film: WALL-E (2008) A robot cleaning a deserted future Earth falls in love with a survey droid and follows her on a journey into space. Pixar animated adventure, with the voice of Ben Burtt. **10.00** Family Guy **10.30** American Dad **11.00** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents

BBC FOUR

7.00 [illegible] **8.00** Dan Snow's Norman Walks **8.30** Johnny Kingdom's Year with the Birds **9.00** Still Folk Dancing After All These Years **10.00** Film: Priceless (2006) Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Audrey Tautou and Gad Elmaleh. **11.40** [illegible]

E4

6.00 Film: Grease (1978) **8.40** Friends [illegible] **10.00** Film: [illegible] **11.45** The Inbetweeners

FILM4

5.00 The Beverly Hillbillies (1993) **7.00** Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (1953) **9.00** Planet of the Apes (2001) **11.00** The Hunt for Red October (1990) **1.30** Stiletto (2008)

Monday

BBC1
6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Saints and Scroungers. 11.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Inside Out; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 Too Much Too Young: Panorama. 9.00 Silent Witness. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 A Question of Sport. 11.05 The Graham Norton Show. (R) 11.50 Film: Under the Mud. (2006); Weatherview. 1.20 Sign Zone: Giles & Sue Live The Good Life. (R) 2.20 The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion. (R) 3.20 Filthy Rotten Scoundrels. (R) 4.05 BBC News.

BBC2
6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Animal Park. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Ready Steady Cook. (R) 1.25 Coast. 1.30 Live Snooker: The Masters. 4.30 Pointless. (R) 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Live Snooker: The Masters. 8.00 University Challenge. 8.30 Baking Made Easy. 9.00 Horizon: What Is One Degree? 10.00 Episodes. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.20 Snooker: The Masters. 12.10 American Football. 1.10 Snooker Extra. 3.10 BBC News. 4.05 Close.

ITV1
6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May the Best House Win. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Doc Martin. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Lakes. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 The Biggest Loser. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Zoo. (R) 11.35 That Sunday Night Show. (R) 12.05 Grimefighters. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.25 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4
6.05 Sail Mail. (R) 6.10 The Treacle People. (R) 6.20 The Hoobs. (R) 6.45 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.35 According to Jim. (R) 9.05 Supernanny USA. (R) 10.00 Film: Three Coins in the Fountain. (1954) Romantic drama, starring Dorothy McGuire. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Three in a Bed. 12.30 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 1.05 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 1.35 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 2.05 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 2.40 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Celebrity Five Go To. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Celebrity Come Dine with Me. 9.00 One Born Every Minute. 10.00 Shameless. 11.05 Britain's Fattest Man. (R) 12.10 Music on 4: Beady Eye: Video Exclusive. 12.15 Premier League Poker. 1.15 The Genius of British Art. (R) 2.10 Titanic: The Mission. (R) 3.05 Britain's Tillion Pound Horror Story. (R) 4.35 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 5.20 ER. (R)

Channel 5
6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Emergency Bikers. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 3.10 Film: Plague City: Sars in Toronto. (2005) Fact-based drama, starring Karl Malchett. 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Monkey Life. 6.25 Live from Studio Five. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 How Do They Do It?; Five News Update. 8.00 Eddie Stobart: Trucks, Trailers and Tinsel; Five News at 9. 9.00 Film: Payback. (1998) A small-time crook takes on a crime syndicate in pursuit of money he is owed by his wife and partner. Thriller, with Mel Gibson and Kris Kristofferson. 11.05 Film: Vampires: Los Muertos. (2002) Horror sequel, starring Jon Bon Jovi. 1.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 How Not to Decorate. (R) 4.45 HouseBusters. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1
6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Saints and Scroungers. 11.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Holby City. 9.00 Silent Witness. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Motorway Cops. 11.35 Film: The Big Man. (1990) Boxing drama, starring Liam Neeson; Weatherview. 1.35 Sign Zone: Alan Titchmarsh's Garden Secrets. (R) 2.35 DIY SOS: The Big Build – Nottingham. (R) 3.35 Filthy Rotten Scoundrels. (R) 4.20 Climbing Great Buildings. (R) 4.50 BBC News.

BBC2
6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Animal Park. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Ready Steady Cook. (R) 1.25 Coast. (R) 1.30 Live Snooker: The Masters. Ronnie O'Sullivan v Mark Allen. 4.30 Pointless. (R) 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Live Snooker: The Masters. Stephen Maguire v Marco Fu. 7.30 Match of the Day Live: West Ham United v Birmingham City (kick-off 7.45pm). 10.00 Have I Got Old News for You. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Snooker: The Masters. 12.10 Snooker Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 4.50 Close.

ITV1
6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May the Best House Win. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Doc Martin. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Grimefighters. 8.00 The Secret Mediterranean with Trevor McDonald. 9.00 Taggart. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Children of Men. (2006) Futuristic thriller, starring Clive Owen. 12.35 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 Crossing Jordan. 3.20 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4
6.10 The Treacle People. (R) 6.20 The Hoobs. (R) 6.45 The Hoobs. (R) 7.10 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.35 According to Jim. (R) 9.05 Supernanny USA. (R) 10.00 Film: Love Is a Many Splendored Thing. (1955) Fact-based romantic drama, with William Holden and Jennifer Jones. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Three in a Bed. 12.30 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 1.05 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 1.35 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 2.05 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 2.40 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Celebrity Five Go To. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 The Secret Millionaire Changed My Life. 9.00 Hughie's Big Fish Fight. 10.00 Shameless. 11.10 The Big Bang Theory. 11.40 The Big Bang Theory. 12.15 European Poker Tour. 1.15 Freesports on 4. (R) 1.40 World B-Boy Series. (R) 2.05 Beach Volleyball. 2.55 KOTV. 3.25 Triathlon: ITU World Championship Series. (R) 4.15 Abu Dhabi International Triathlon. (R) 5.10 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor. (R)

Channel 5
6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Emergency Bikers. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 3.05 Film: I Do (But I Don't). (2004) Drama, starring Denise Richards. 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Monkey Life. 6.25 Live from Studio Five. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Zoo Days; (R) Five News Update. 8.00 Jack the Ripper – The Definitive Story; Five News at 9. 9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. 10.00 CSI: Miami. (R) 10.55 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. 11.55 True CSI. 12.55 SuperCasino. 4.00 How Not to Decorate. (R) 4.45 HouseBusters. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1
6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Saints and Scroungers. 11.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Rip Off Britain. (R) BBC News; Regional News. 8.10 Film: Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom. (1984) Action adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draw. 10.45 Film 2011 with Claudia Winkleman; National Lottery Update. 11.25 The League Cup Show. 12.05 Film: Timecop. (1994) Sci-fi adventure, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme; Weatherview. 1.45 Sign Zone: Country Tracks. (R) 2.40 Ian Hislop's Age of the Do-Gooders. (R) 3.40 Turn Back Time – The High Street. (R) 4.40 BBC News.

BBC2
6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Daily Politics. 1.00 See Hear. 1.30 Live Snooker: The Masters. Neil Robertson v Stephen Hendry. 4.30 Pointless. (R) 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Live Snooker: The Masters. Shaun Murphy v Jamie Cope. 8.00 Michel Roux's Service. 9.00 Edwardian Farm. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Snooker: The Masters. 12.10 Snooker Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 4.40 Close.

ITV1
6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May the Best House Win. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Doc Martin. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 The Unforgettable Pat Phoenix. (R) 8.00 Midsomer Murders. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Constantine. (2005) Supernatural thriller, starring Keanu Reeves. 12.45 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.50 Film: Out for Justice. (1991) Action thriller, with Steven Seagal. 4.20 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4
6.00 Yo Gabba Gabba. (R) 6.25 The Hoobs. (R) 6.50 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.10 Frasier. (R) 8.40 According to Jim. (R) 9.10 Supernanny USA. (R) 10.00 Film: Doctor in Distress. (1963) Hospital comedy, starring Dirk Bogarde. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Three in a Bed. (R) 12.35 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 1.05 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 1.35 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 2.05 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 2.40 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Celebrity Five Go To. 5.55 Jamie's Fish Supper. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Arthur's Hell on High Water. 8.55 Jamie's Fish Supper. 9.00 Hughie's Big Fish Fight. 10.00 Shameless. 11.10 Film: Teenage Paparazzo. (2010) Premiere. Documentary about a 14-year-old photographer. 1.00 My Family's Crazy Gap Year. (R) 1.55 Film: Gregory's Two Girls. (1999) 3.50 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 4.35 Hill Street Blues. (R) 5.25 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5
6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Emergency Bikers. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 3.10 Film: Murder 101. (2006) 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Monkey Life. 6.25 Live from Studio Five. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 How Do They Do It?; (R) Five News Update. 8.00 Battle of Britain: The Lost Evidence; Five News at 9. 9.00 NCIS. 10.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. (R) 10.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) 11.55 Poker. 12.50 SuperCasino. 4.00 How Not to Decorate. (R) 4.45 HouseBusters. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Thursday

BBC1
6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Saints and Scroungers. 11.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Human Planet. 9.00 Come Fly with Me. 9.30 Not Going Out. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Question Time. 11.35 This Week; Sitting Weatherview. 12.25 Sign Zone: Too Much Too Young: Panorama. (R) 12.55 Countryfile. (R) 1.55 Antiques Roadshow. (R) 2.55 Turn Back Time – The High Street. (R) 3.55 BBC News.

BBC2
6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Animal Park. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Ready Steady Cook. (R) 1.25 Coast. 1.30 Live Snooker: The Masters. The first quarter-final. 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Live Snooker: The Masters. The second quarter-final. 8.00 Michel Roux's Service. 9.00 Men of Rock. 10.00 The Great Outdoors. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Snooker: The Masters. 12.10 Snooker Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 3.55 Close.

ITV1
6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May the Best House Win. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Doc Martin. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Can You Keep a Secret?: Tonight. 8.00 Emmerdale. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Kidnap and Ransom. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Odd One In. (R) 11.20 Send in the Dogs. (R) 12.15 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.10 Can You Keep a Secret?: Tonight. (R) 3.35 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4
6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.50 According to Jim. (R) 9.20 Supernanny USA. (R) 10.15 Film: Genevieve. (1953) Comedy, starring Dinah Sheridan. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Three in a Bed. (R) 12.35 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 1.05 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 1.35 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 2.05 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 2.40 Come Dine with Me Down Under. (R) 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 4.55 Jamie's Fish Supper. 5.00 Celebrity Five Go To. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Relocation, Relocation. 8.55 Jamie's Fish Supper. 9.00 Hughie's Big Fish Fight. 9.55 Jamie's Fish Supper. 10.00 Shameless. 11.10 Film: Hot Shots! (1991) Action movie spoof, starring Charlie Sheen. 12.45 4Music: 4Play: British Sea Power. 1.00 Live and Lost. (R) 1.25 Orchestra United. (R) 3.15 The Untold Great Fire of London. (R) 4.10 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 4.55 Countdown. (R) 5.40 Yo Gabba Gabba. (R)

Channel 5
6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Emergency Bikers. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 3.05 Film: Trust. (2009) Premiere. Mystery, starring Jamie Luner. 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Monkey Life. 6.25 Live from Studio Five. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Monkey Life; Five News Update. 8.00 Ripped from the Cockpit: BA Flight of Terror; Five News at 9. 9.00 Film: The Bone Collector. (1999) Thriller, starring Denzel Washington and Angelina Jolie. 11.25 Forensic Files. (R) 11.55 Cops in Crisis. (R) 12.15 SuperCasino. 4.00 How Not to Decorate. (R) 4.45 HouseBusters. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Friday

BBC1
6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Saints and Scroungers. 11.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 A Question of Sport. (R) BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 QI. 9.00 Hustle. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Graham Norton Show. 11.20 The National Lottery Friday Night Draw. 11.30 Film: Starship Troopers. (1997) Sci-fi adventure, starring Casper Van Dien; Weatherview. 1.30 Sign Zone: James May's Man Lab. (R) 2.30 Horizon: Miracle Cure? A Decade of the Human Genome. (R) 3.30 Filthy Rotten Scoundrels. (R) 4.15 BBC News.

BBC2
6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Animal Park. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Ready Steady Cook. 1.25 Coast. (R) 1.30 Live Snooker: The Masters. Coverage of the third best-of-11-frames quarter-final. 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Live Snooker: The Masters. The fourth best-of-11-frames quarter-final. 8.00 Mastermind. 8.30 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. 9.00 Can't Take It with You. 10.00 Fast and Loose. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 The Review Show; Weather. 11.50 Snooker: The Masters. 12.40 Snooker Extra. 2.40 BBC News. 4.15 Close.

ITV1
6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May the Best House Win. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Doc Martin. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Children's Hospital. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Comedy Rocks with Jason Manford. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Take Me Out. (R) 11.50 30 Years of An Audience With. (R) 12.40 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.40 Film: US Marshals. (1998) Thriller sequel, starring Tommy Lee Jones. 4.50 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4
6.05 The Hoobs. (R) 6.30 The Hoobs. (R) 6.55 Freshly Squeezed. 7.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.50 Frasier. (R) 8.15 Frasier. (R) 8.40 According to Jim. (R) 9.10 Supernanny USA. (R) 10.10 Film: Blithe Spirit. (1945) Supernatural comedy, starring Rex Harrison. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Three in a Bed. (R) 12.35 Come Dine with Me. (R) 1.05 Come Dine with Me. (R) 1.35 Come Dine with Me. (R) 2.05 Come Dine with Me. (R) 2.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Celebrity Five Go To. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.25 4thought.tv. 7.30 The Pawn King. 7.55 Jamie's Fish Supper. 8.00 Relocation: Phil Down Under. 9.00 Heston's Fishy Feast. 10.00 Shameless. 11.10 Film: Hot Shots! Part Deux. (1993) Spoof action movie sequel, starring Charlie Sheen. 12.50 Music on 4: 4Play: White Lies. 1.05 My Name Is Earl. (R) 1.55 Comedy Lab: ICandy. (R) 2.20 Film: Baby Boy. (2001) Premiere. Drama, starring Tyrese Gibson. 4.30 ER. (R) 5.15 Countdown. (R) 5.55 Close.

Channel 5
6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Emergency Bikers. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 3.05 Film: The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. (1999) 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Monkey Life. 6.25 Live from Studio Five. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Michaela's Zoo Babies. (R) Five News Update. 8.00 Pirates of the Caribbean: The True Story; Five News at 9. 9.00 The Mentalist. (R) 10.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 10.55 NCIS. 11.55 Cops in Crisis. (R) 12.15 SuperCasino. 4.00 Motorsport Mundial. 4.25 How Not to Decorate. 5.10 Wildlife SOS. 5.35 House Doctor.

Brain Gym

No.098

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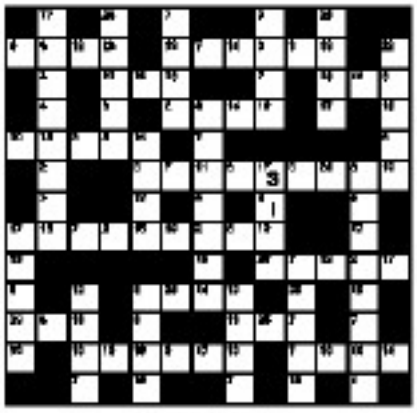
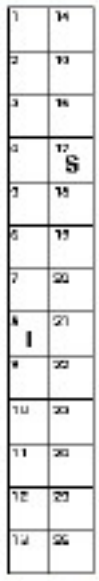
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



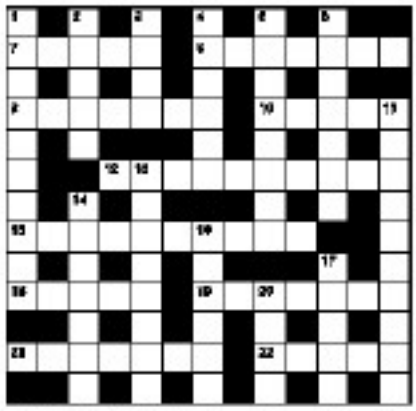


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

N	Y	C	U	J	I	A	P	E	D	B	F	M
L	X	W	R	H	K	S	V	Q	G	O	Z	T

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit in the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Scene of contest in long term bash (5)
8. Heads on ends, prompts (7)
9. Definitely gentle colour? (7)
10. A fine chance cause spread abroad (5)
12. They go on flat, on certainly (8)
14. Loyalties flirt on relatively unpaid but (9,4)
14. The devil's one of the open smile (5)
19. Hours of feasting? (7)
21. Ironmaiden for a little prayer (7)
22. She puts right knee often in her bent (5)

Down

1. Jumping change for circumstances (9,3)
2. Be interested in concerning receive activity (8)
3. Fine opportunity to entertainment (6)
4. Be entertainment virtuous question wasn't (9)
5. Introduction broken a cosy (4)
6. Good cause for long distances down (7)
11. Used untidy or other in germ part (8)
13. Learning to change in a big way (8)
14. Can I be so friendly? (7)
16. Give means of show techniques (8)
17. Remote time (5)
20. Ring over in difficulty (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Shiner (3)
8. Shadow check (7)
9. Unknown (7)
10. Slippery (5)
12. Effect (5,3)
14. Short hues (10)
18. Stop handouts or (5)
19. Springy (7)
21. Covered (7)
22. Since (5)

Down

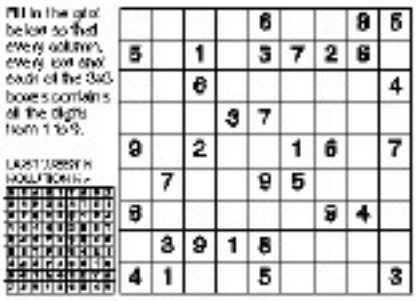
1. Unlike room! (10)
2. Stolen pain (3) some of this (5)
4. Hide (5)
6. Without harm (9)
8. Hot dog (7)
11. Charming (10)
13. Unknown (9)
14. Chivalry (7)
16. Impolite (8)
17. Jumble (5)
20. Too (4)

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

				6			8	5
5		1		3	7	2	6	
		6						4
			3	7				
9		2			1	6		7
	7			9	5			
8						9	4	
	3	9	1	8				
4	1			5				3

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Circlegram

Replace the question marks with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter repeated twice by the question marks?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter repeated twice by the question marks is R. Anxiety, Jeopardy, control, all are of Pelicans.

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Dudley

COURSES STARTING WEEK COMMENCING 17th JANUARY 2011

ALL BEGINNERS COURSES * WILL RUN 1 EXTRA HOUR FOR THE FIRST WEEK

Dancing/Exercise Courses	Title	Day	Time	Price
Belly Dancing (Beg)- Mixture of Belly Dance and Bollywood '7-8.30pm	10	Tues	6-9.30pm	£30.00
Belly Dancing (Beg/Int/Adv) - Tribal Fusion ' 7-8.30pm	10	Wed	7.45-9.15pm	£30.00
Salsa Dancing (Beg) ' 7.45-9.15pm	10	Mon	7.45-9.15pm	£20.00
Computer Courses				
Computers for Absolute Beginners (All Ages) ' 6.30-8.30pm	10	Mon	7-9pm	£40.00
Driving Theory (Ideal for students new to driving or re-sits) ''	5	Tues	7-9pm	£40.00
Music Courses				
Bring & Play (Whatever instrument you play)	10	Wed	7-9pm	FREE
Keyboards for Beginners ' 6.30-9pm	10	Wed	6-7.30	£30.00
Ukulele for Beginners (Ukulele provided) ' 7-8.30pm	10	Thurs	7.45-9.15pm	£40.00
Guitars for Beginners '6-8pm	10	Weds	6-7pm	£20.00
Creative Crafts/Art Courses				
Flower Arranging (Mixed Ability) ' 6.30-8.30pm	10	Mon	7-9pm	£40.00
Floristry' 6.30-8.30pm	10	Tues	7-9pm	£40.00
Cake Decorating Club (Beg)' '	10	Mon	7-9pm	£40.00
Cake Decorating Club (Int/Adv & Sugar Craft) ''	10	Wed	7-9pm	£40.00
Learn how to Use a Sewing Machine (Total Beg) ' 6.30-8.30pm	10	Thurs	7-9pm	£40.00
Asian & European Dressmaking/ Decorative crafts for the home' 6.30-8.30pm	10	Wed	7-9pm	£40.00
Art (For Absolute Beginners) ' 6.30-8.30pm	10	Wed	7-9pm	£40.00
Pottery for Beginners	10	TBA	TBA	TBA
Learn to Face Paint Children (Ideal 4 Fetes&Parties) 6.30-8.30pm	10	Mon	7-9pm	£40.00
Can't Cook, Want to Cook for Boys '10-1pm				
Enrolment Date 10/1/11- Thurs 13/1/11	10	Sat	10am-12pm	£40.00
Do It Yourself Courses				
Woodwork (Expert Advice on your own Project) ' 6.30-8.30pm	10	Mon	7-9pm	£40.00
Career Qualification Courses				
Start Your Own Business ' 6.30-9.30pm	10	Thurs	7-9pm	£40.00
Language Courses				
Holiday Spanish (Beg) '6-8.30pm	10	Thurs	6-7.30pm	£30.00
Holiday Italian (Beg) '6-8.30pm	10	Wed	6-7.30pm	£30.00
Recreational Courses				
Beauty & Hair - for Bridal & Special Occasions ' 6.30-8.30pm	10	Thurs	7-9pm	£40.00
Am I Psychic? (Beg) 6TH SENSE DEVELOPMENT '6-8.30pm	9	Tues	6-7.30pm	£27.00

COURSES STARTING WEEK COMMENCING 17th JANUARY 2011 (Referrer courses starting week commencing 17th January at normal times)

Dancing/Exercise Courses	Title	Day	Time	Price
Belly Dancing (Club) '' MUST BE ASSESSED BY TUTOR	10	Tues	6.30-8pm	£20.00
Salsa (Improvers)	10	Mon	8.15- 9.15pm	£20.00
Salsa (Intermediate)	10	Tues	7.15- 8.15pm	£20.00
Salsa (Advanced)	10	Tues	8.15- 9.15pm	£20.00
Zumba ' ' FREE TASTER 19/01/2011	10	Weds	6- 7.30pm	TBA
Computer Course				
Digital Photography Beginners/Intermediate Club ''	10	Mon	7-9pm	£40.00
Music Courses				
Guitars for Improvers	10	Weds	7-8pm	£20.00
Guitars for Intermediates	10	Weds	8-9.30pm	£30.00
Keyboards (Mixed Ability)	10	Weds	7.30 - 9pm	£30.00
Career Qualification Courses				
Do you have a skill & time to teach (PTLLS & DTLLS - for teaching in The Lifelong learning centre) 730? minimum qualification for teaching adults ''	10	Thurs	6-9pm	TBA
			STARTS FEB 2011	
Level 2 Emergency First Aid at Work '' RING FOR DETAILS	2	Tues	6-9.30pm	TBA
Paediatric First Aid '' RING FOR DETAILS	4	Tues	6-9 pm	TBA
Basic Food Hygiene Certificate (A must if working with food) ''	2	Weds	6-9.30pm	TBA
Level 2 Cleaning in Food Premises '' RING FOR DETAILS			Weeks	TBA
British Sign Language (price includes Unit 101 Exam fee)	30	Weds	7-9pm	TBA
			STARTS SEPT 2011	
Creative Crafts/Art Courses				
Sewing Skills for Improvers	10	Tues	7-9pm	£30.00
Cooking for Fellas	10	Tues	7-9pm	£30.00
Language Courses				
Holiday Spanish (Improvers) ideal for those who attended a 10-20 hours	10	Thurs	7.30-9pm	£30.00
Holiday Spanish (Improvers) ideal for those who attended a 20-30 hours	10	Thurs	6-7.30pm	£30.00
Holiday Spanish (Intermediate) ideal for those who attended a 20+ hours	10	Thurs	7.30-9pm	£30.00
Holiday Italian (Improvers)	10	Wed	7.30-9pm	£30.00
Recreational Courses				
Am I Psychic? (Int/Adv)	9	Tues	7-9pm	£36.00
LITERACY AND NUMERACY RING FOR DETAILS		TBA	TBA	FREE

'' THERE ARE NO CONCESSIONS GIVEN ON CLASSES

For further Information Please Contact Kay Scampton On 01384 816243 or 07704 404588

All Courses = Tuition Fee + Annual Registration Fee £5 payable in full first night of class (Prices are subject to change)

100% Concessions Available on all courses = EVIDENCE required first night of class (Income Support/Pension Credits, JSA, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Employment & Support Allowance & Working Tax Credits + with a household income less than £16,675)

Thorns Community College

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Kick-Start your Parents / Grandparents / Carers along to one of the following classes

Support your Child's Learning and Improve your own skills

FREE Family Learning

These courses are specifically for Parents /Grandparents or Carers who do not hold a GCSE (above a Level C in English or Maths) or 3 'C' Level in English or Maths or a Level 2 Certificate in Literacy or Numeracy or if your child needs extra support with school work or life skills.

For those that do hold qualifications come along to one of the Family Clubs listed below

Courses starting week commencing 24th January 2011

Course Title	No.	Title	Time	Day
MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY Parents /Grandparents or Carers				
Music				
Drums for Fun age 7+	10	G- 7.30pm	Weds	Free
Other Courses				
Family Singing Sessions	5	G- 7.30pm	Weds	Free
Family Dance Sessions	5	G- 7.30pm	Weds	Free
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Drums for Beginners/Improvers Full Kit Age7+	5	7.30 - 9pm	Weds	£5 per Session
Keyboards Beg/Imp Age 5+ (Equipment Provided)	5	G- 7.30pm	Mon	£5 per Session
Family Cooking - (Children under 8 must be accompanied by adult)	5	1.30 - 3pm	Sat	£5 per Session

For Further Information Please Contact Kay Scampton On

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THE PARADE

DUDLEY
DORSETT STREET

This bungalow in Maidensbridge Road, Wall Heath, is on the market for offers based on £189,950 via local estate agent Taylors

Bungalow situated in quiet cul-de-sac

FORMING part of a small collection of detached bungalows within a cul-de-sac setting and approached from Maidensbridge Road, is this deceptive detached bungalow.

Number 1 Maidensbridge Drive in Wall Heath is on the market for offers in the region of £189,950 with Taylors estate agent and comes with no upward chain.

Internally, the accommodation is attractively presented and includes two good bedrooms and the house itself is surrounded by landscaped gardens.

Access is via a reception hall which measures 14ft 4in x 6ft 6in, entered through a uPVC door, with a built-in cloak cupboard.

The lounge includes a double-glazed patio window with views to the rear garden, two windows to the side, flame-effect gas fire with surround, radiator, two wall light points and measures 14ft 4in x 11ft 4in.

Integrated

With a range of light oak wood style cupboards in the kitchen, dimensions here are 14ft 5in x 8ft and incorporate an integrated electric hob and oven and fridge, freezer.

There is also a uPVC double-glazed window overlooking the rear garden including the sink drainer unit with mixer tap and plumbing for an automatic washing machine, door to the rear garden and built-in pantry.

The first bedroom is to the front and measures 11ft x 11ft 1in. It incorporates fitted wardrobes and matching bedside cabinets, wall cupboards and further double wardrobes.

Also to the front is the second bedroom with dimensions of 11ft 3in x 10ft 11in, this room has also be used as a dining room.

The bathroom incorporates a suite comprising a panel bath with electric shower, inset wash basin with vanity unit, a uPVC double-glazed window to the side, double radiator and full height tiling.

There is also separate WC with low-level WC, half tiled walls and a double-glazed window to the side.

Driveway

Once outside, the bungalow is set back beyond the low maintenance front with asphalt driveway and a shared side driveway continues alongside the bungalow to the garage which measures 16ft x 8ft 2in.

The garden includes a paved patio area to the rear of the bungalow with cold water tap and gated side access leading to a further patio with a private aspect.

The garden includes an extensive patio area, cold water tap and maturing shrubs

A nicely proportioned kitchen includes a number of light oak wall and base units

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CHURCH ROAD, HALESOWEN

A extremely well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of Lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, two bedrooms, bathroom and cellar. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden and front driveway. Unfurnished. Children Yes. Smokers No. Pets No.

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A very well presented Two Bedroom End Terrace Property in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises: Lounge Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom and Two Double Bedrooms. The property further benefits from GCH, double glazing, rear garden and Block paved fore garden. DSS No. Children Yes. Pets No. Smokers No.

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Large Porch, Three Bedroom Detached Property having been recently refurbished with accommodation to comprise of Lounge, dining room, study, bedroom, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking and small rear garden. UNFURNISHED. DSS: NO. CHILDREN: YES. PETS: NO. SMOKERS: NO.

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An extremely well presented one bedroom, unfurnished, first floor mews apartment. Accommodation comprises of Entrance, reception room, bedroom, tiled bathroom and kitchen. The property further benefits from electric heating and double glazing. Viewing room needed. UNFURNISHED. DSS: NAY. CONSIDER CHILDREN: NO. PETS: NO. SMOKERS: NO.

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STAGHOUNDS ROAD, HEMBERTON

An extremely well presented one bedroom starter home with easy access to Dudley Town Centre. Accommodation comprises: Entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and majority double glazing. UNFURNISHED. DSS: NO. PETS: YES. CHILDREN: NO. SMOKERS: YES.

£ [illegible] pcm

BRIDGEWATER ROAD, WOLLASTON

A one bedroom first floor apartment with accommodation to comprise of lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The property benefits from double glazing and electric heating. UNFURNISHED. DSS: NO. CHILDREN: NO. PETS: NO. SMOKERS: NO.

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MOTORING NEWS AND REVIEWS
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French firm says its electronic alternative to a 4x4 is ideal for any further cold snaps

Getting to grips with winter

BRITAIN'S big freeze has seen continued interest in 4x4s.

But there can be big sacrifices to make on emissions, and therefore tax, fuel consumption and insurance costs for some models.

Now Peugeot is highlighting its 4x4 alternative, designed to give drivers enhanced driving ability in poor conditions, while remaining affordable and comfortable in everyday use.

The option is the firm's 3008 "crossover" fitted with Peugeot's innovative Grip Control.

Grip Control consists of an intelligent traction control system and special Mud and Snow tyres. It automatically improves traction on difficult surfaces such as snow, mud, dirt tracks and wet grass.

The 3008's snow mode boosts traction

The car has a well-equipped cabin

Grip Control offers all-weather ability without the weight and emissions of a 4x4

Modes

The system works with the vehicle's ESP (Electronic Stability Programme) to maintain the best possible traction from both front wheels. It has five selectable operating modes which can be chosen by the driver from a dedicated control mounted on the centre console.

In Standard mode, the vehicle's ESP system is calibrated for typical grip levels found on normal road surfaces, where there are low levels of wheel slip.

Snow mode adapts the system to gain the best traction from each of the front wheels when the car is pulling away. As the car increases speed, the system constantly tweaks the traction control to maintain acceleration in the face of variable grip conditions.

The system returns to Standard once you are over 31mph.

All-terrain mode copes with mud, dirt tracks and wet grass by allowing a high level of slip on the least stable wheel when pulling away to remove excess mud and improve grip. At the same time, the wheel with the strongest grip level is given as much torque as possible. As the system is electronically controlled the torque offset between the front wheels can be as much as 100 per cent, well beyond normal limits for a limited slip differential. As the car gains speed, the system continually works against wheel slip to give the driver the best possible control over the vehicle up to 50mph.

Sand mode allows slight wheel slip on both drive wheels simultaneously, to allow the vehicle to make headway and reduce the risk of getting stuck in the sand. Here again, the control provided is superior to that of a limited slip differential (LSD). In this mode, Standard mode kicks in automatically above a speed of 75mph.

There is also an ESP Off setting, which disconnects ESP and Grip Control up to 31mph, giving control to the driver. Above this speed, "ESP Standard" selects automatically.

Peugeot's Grip Control option also includes the standard fitment of 215/60 R16 Michelin Latitude Tour HP "Mud and Snow" tyres, which are suitable for off-road use. These tyres have special StabiliGrip blades within the tread pattern that can lock together to maintain good tread contact with the driven terrain.

Seasons

Grip Control gives the Peugeot 3008 Crossover a great all-round ability as well as providing excellent towing and carrying capabilities for better weather, making it a genuine car for all seasons.

And, when the weather changes the system has none of the disadvantages with regards to increased weight and emissions of a standard mechanical 4x4 system.

Peugeot's Grip Control is available as standard on the Peugeot 3008 SR Crossover and as a £470 option on the Peugeot 3008 Sport and Exclusive HDi 112 & HDi 150 Crossover models.

Prices for the Peugeot 3008 range start at £16,695 on the road.

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Voyage of Discovery in the snow

There's nothing out there to touch this great seven-seater

The Discovery 4 is both practical and family-friendly – and just the vehicle to cope with winter's rigours

The unusally-styled split tailgate at the rear

The cabin is both spacious and luxurious

THERE can't be too many firms which actually relished the pre-Christmas freeze-up that saw much of the country grind to a halt. Apart from Land Rover, of course.

Bad weather generally signals a boost in inquiries about the West Midlands firm's vehicles – and having been lucky enough to be driving a Discovery 4 for much of the Arctic snap, I can see why. Frankly, the car proved a godsend.

Ironically, the fourth generation Discovery was launched just over a year ago with Land Rover looking to concentrate on the car's much improved on-road performance, ***writes Peter Carroll.***

But with the region blanketed in snow it was the traditional Land Rover strengths of ruggedness and all-weather agility that came to the fore.

Despite not being fitted with winter tyres, the Disco proved remarkably sure-footed – even in the worst of the weather.

It only slithered uncomfortably once and that was down to driver error caused by me booting it up an icy hill while turning at the same time.

For the most part, it was a case of selecting Grass, Gravel, Snow from the Terrain Response rotary control unit and letting the car take care of the rest.

Some Land Rover drivers are content to leave their cars in standard 4x4 mode and never get to grips with what their vehicles can do when the going gets tough – but Terrain Response was designed to come into its own when confronted with a range of different surfaces.

It has settings for coping with wet grass, sand or mud, as well as a rock crawling mode.

The snow setting locks the rear differential to stop wheel spin and also retards the throttle for the same reason.

Flecks

The driver can monitor the status of the differentials on the screen in the centre of the dashboard.

All you have to do is take it easy on the road and leave plenty of room between yourself and the vehicle in front and you should be fine. Even if the snow is deep you always have the option of raising the air suspension.

Of course there's no setting, even on a Land Rover, which can cope with sheet ice. The best approach here is to slow right down and constantly monitor the state of the road for telltale flecks of ice.

If you have a manual you need to use as high a gear as possible; if the car is automatic you can accomplish this by switching to manual mode. Anyone living on a steep slope and considering a Discovery may find they still need to fit snow chains to their tyres for that little bit of extra traction in icy conditions.

The test car came through its bad weather test with flying colours and in fact proved itself the consummate family leisure vehicle. Spacious, practical, comfortable, it also offered a surprisingly refined driving experience.

Parking may prove an issue for some – even with cameras providing 360 degree coverage. The Disco is a substantial beast – longer than a short wheelbase Transit van and only around a foot narrower. Light steering helps take some of the hassle out of manoeuvring but you'll still have to hunt for a larger parking space than normal.

The tailgate splits usefully but the load sill is always on the high side, unless you can be bothered to drop the suspension down.

Fuel economy, at around 25mpg, is reasonable for a car of this size but the lighter BMW X5 scores over the Land Rover when it comes to economy and emissions.

Leather

The supplied Discovery was a top-of-the-range HSE with all the toys, costing a fraction over £50,000 to put on the road.

The XS, which still has leather seats but costs £43,345, arguably offers better value.

Alternatively, special edition Landmark Discovery models will arrive in showrooms this month in either white or black, with prices starting at £46,945. Another bonus for Land Rover customers is that the firm is taking care of the VAT rise until the end of March.

The Discovery remains one of Land Rover's flagship performers. It has more space and capability than a Freelander 2 and is less of a status symbol than a Range Rover.

For a practical, family seven-seater that will go anywhere, whatever the weather, there's nothing to touch it.

Facts and figures

Model: Land Rover Discovery 4 HSE at £50,745 on the road
Engine: 2,993cc, V6, diesel
Power: 245hp
Transmission: Six speed auto, all wheel drive
Performance: 0-62mph in 9.6 seconds
Top speed: 112mph
Economy: 30.4mpg on combined cycle
CO2 emissions: 244g/km
Length: 4,838mm
Kerb weight: 2,583kg
Servicing: 16,000 miles
Warranty: Three years/ 60,000 miles

Rugged Toyota 4x4 enjoys sales boost

ONE of Toyota's longest-established vehicles is enjoying a sales boost thanks to its reputation for coping with the most arduous of weather conditions.

Both versions of the Toyota Land Cruiser have performed well in showrooms during the recent bout of Arctic weather.

Sales of the Land Cruiser are up by 77 per cent over the same period last year, while the V8 model has boosted its registrations by 120 per cent.

Celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2011 the Land Cruiser is one of Toyota's most iconic vehicles with a hard-earned reputation for toughness and reliability and a proven track record of performing in the most severe environments from deserts and jungles to Arctic wastes.

The well-established Land Cruiser has a reputation for coping with the most arduous weather conditions

With more than six million units sold since launch, the Land Cruiser is available in more than 140 countries and is manufactured in nine plants in five countries.

In the UK, there are three grades of the latest generation Land Cruiser which use a 3.0-litre D-4D diesel engine, five-speed automatic transmission and provide user-friendly advanced technologies for handling, safety and driver guidance.

These include Multi-Terrain Select system, Crawl Control and Multi-Terrain monitors.

Its larger stablemate, the Land Cruiser V8, uses Toyota's most powerful diesel engine, a 4.5-litre D-4D providing 282bhp and 650Nm of torque, through a six-speed automatic transmission with sequential manual gear change.

Available in one luxury specification, features also include multi-terrain ABS optimising brake control to suit driving conditions, the world's first four-wheel active height control and adaptive variable suspension. Both vehicles have the ability to seat seven and are covered by a five-year, 100,000-mile warranty.

Renault slashes its prices to help buyers offset the increase in VAT

There are New Year savings on Renaults, including the Megane

ENERGY and train prices might be rising, but car buyers can look forward to some January bargain-hunting now that the cost of buying many new Renaults is being cut in early 2011 – in spite of the increased VAT rate.

Following the recent simplification of its car range, Renault has announced key model pricing including the new 20 per cent VAT rate.

The welcome news for anyone with funds left after the festive period is that many of the best-sellers will be the same price, or in many cases, substantially less than before, by up to £2,000.

Compared to October 2010 prices there are some substantial savings to be made.

Among them, there is £1,415 off the Dynamique TomTom dCi 150 version of Laguna Hatch at £20,485, and £1,315 off the equivalent Sport Tourer. Their striking two-door sister also ushers in the New Year with some healthy cuts, with Laguna Coupé GT Line TomTom 2.0 dCi 180 £1,970 less than before, at £25,000.

The now top-of-the-range GT Line TomTom V6 dCi 235 Auto is even more of a bargain, with £2,300 off of its former £30,800 list price.

The flagship of the Renault range, Grand Espace, also joins the New Year celebrations with £2,050 sliced off the Dynamique TomTom 2.0 dCi 150, now £26,550.

Further down the range, up to £1,055 has been trimmed off Dynamique TomTom versions of Mégane Hatch, with an average of £410 off the entry-level Expression versions. The svelte Mégane Coupé has also slimmed down, with a sizeable £1,060 taken off the Dynamique TomTom 1.4 TCe 130.

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Big change on way for Merc's executive car

The new Mercedes-Benz C-Class has more dynamic styling at the front and at the back

MERCEDES-BENZ is poised to launch a comprehensively updated C-Class compact executive car in the spring.

The car will have a more dynamic appearance as well as more efficient engines and no fewer than 10 new safety assistance features.

The revised car will be the latest chapter in what has been a big success story for Mercedes – more than a million examples of the current C-Class have been sold since its launch in March, 2007, including 98,000 in the UK alone.

Dr. Joachim Schmidt, sales and marketing director at Mercedes-Benz Cars, said: "In terms of drive and protection systems the new-generation C-Class offers the same comfort and safety as our luxury models. High-grade interior features remind one of the new CLS – the C-Class sets completely new standards in its segment with respect to perceived value and quality."

The C-Class's new aerodynamic shape

This interior modernisation is supplemented with a new telematics generation that not only includes completely redesigned displays, but also makes onboard internet access available.

The new car has been comprehensively revised and features more striking styling at the front and rear, with a more prominent radiator grille surround.

Plenty of luxury touches in the cabin

Bonnet

The side air inlets in the bumper are positioned low down, giving the car a more road-hugging appearance.

Both Saloon and Estate have a new aluminium bonnet, which contributes to weight reduction and enhances fuel efficiency.

The shape of the headlamps has been modified to create a more dynamic and resolute impression, and to act together with the bonnet, radiator grille and bumper to emphasise the V-shape of the front section.Horizontal LED daytime running lamps in the bumper also make the C-Class stand out from a distance.

The aerodynamics of the C-Class are a mark of the bodyshell's efficiency. With a Cd figure of 0.26 it not only sets the benchmark in its class, but also glides through the wind better than most compact cars.

The main focus of the design work in the interior was on restyling the dashboard with its integrated screen and new surface grain.

The touch surfaces of the controls are now also more finely detailed and galvanised.

In conjunction with the new generation telematics generation, the C-Class is now available with a high-resolution colour display in the instrument cluster.

More power, with better economy

An improvement of up to 31 per cent has been achieved in fuel consumption and all C-Class launch models will feature the Eco start/stop function as standard. All the engine variants are now classed as BlueEfficiency units, the term Mercedes uses to denote its most efficient and environmentally-friendly power plants. The automatic versions will be seven-speed transmissions, with ratios optimised for better fuel economy.

All petrol engines in the model series have direct injection. One of the highlights is the introduction of the new V6 petrol engine in the C350 BlueEfficiency, with its innovative and efficient operating system. Power is increased by 14hp to 306hp and torque by 5Nm to 370Nm.

Function

The most economical model in the Mercedes C-Class range has also become even more frugal: the C220 CDI BlueEfficiency with the manual six-speed transmission and the standard Eco start/stop function.

In manual mode it emits just 117g/km of CO2 and returns 58.8mpg on the combined cycle. The auto returns a similar consumption figure, with slightly higher emisssions at 125g/km.

With a total of 10 new driving assistance systems ranging from Attention Assist drowsiness detection to Distronic Plus proximity control, the C-Class reaches a new level in safety.

The assistance systems are based on the latest radar, camera and sensor technology, and cover frequent accident causes such as driving too closely, fatigue and darkness.

The new C-Class also sees the debut of a new telematics generation which will also be gradually introduced in other model series.

Displays

Major new features include greater operating convenience, larger displays, telephone directory transfer, display of text messages, wireless music reproduction via Bluetooth and a USB interface now accommodated in the centre armrest.

The multimedia system Comand Online now provides internet access for the first time (via the customers data enabled mobile phone). When the car is stationary, customers are able to browse freely or surf to a Mercedes-Benz Online service whose pages load particularly rapidly and are also easy to use while on the move. The integrated services include weather information and a search via Google.

Club is aiming to have big year

HAGLEY & District Light Car Club, which celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2011, has organised a busy programme of motor sport events for the coming year.

The season kicks off with the Geoff Taylor Sporting Trial for two-seater lightweight specials, fighting for traction on the grassy slopes of Hurtle Hill Farm, at Heightington, near Kidderminster, on Sunday February 6.

Then the club will host the first round of the BTRDA National Autotest Championship at Curborough Sprint Circuit, near Lichfield, on Sunday March 13, where stripped out saloons and specials compete against the clock, driving forwards and reversing at speed, in a sequence of manoeuvres between intricate courses of traffic cones.

Two rounds of the prestigious British Hill Climb Championship are being held at Loton Park on Sunday June 12 and Sunday September 25, with practice for both events the Saturday before.

Final

The Midland Hill Climb Championship visits the deer park setting of Sir Michael Leighton's stately home near Shrewsbury on Easter Monday April 25 and Sunday May 22, with the final round being hosted on Sunday September 25, running alongside the national event. Will Hall of Romsley, Halesowen, is the current Midland Hill Climb Champion.

National club meetings, hosting a wide variety of sports cars, saloons, racing cars and motorcycles are being held on April 24/25, July 9/10, August 13/14 and September 10/11.

The Vintage Sports Car Club is staging its popular meeting at Loton Park on the weekend of July 16/17 and the 55th running of the Ken Wharton Memorial Autotests will take place at Arrow Mill, Alcester, on October 8.

Quattro is beating the ice

WITH more cold weather possibly on the way, Audi is continuing to promote the benefits of its four-wheel drive 'quattro' models.

The Vorsprung durch Technik brand offers UK motorists a diverse range of all-wheel-drive options, with more than 120 permutations taking in not just the rugged Q5, Q7 and allroad SUVs, but also compact hatchbacks, saloons, coupes and supercars.

In this, its 30th anniversary year, Audi says its Quattro system has been confirmed as the most successful all-wheel-drive system in the world, featuring on well over 3.3 million cars.

More than 235,000 of these have found homes in the UK since the year 2000 alone, and Quattro-equipped cars continue to account for around 30 per cent of total orders placed with Audi centres annually. By using propulsion from two driving axles rather than the usual one, the Quattro system is able to constantly vary torque distribution in favour of the wheels offering most grip.

Jeremy Hicks, director of Audi UK, said: "Audi offers Quattro right from the A3 upwards, so it isn't necessary to make the jump to an SUV to enjoy the feeling of reassurance in tricky conditions."

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BK06PVE	MG ZR+ 1.8 3dr 120	Grey	£3,995	£3,495	£500	£90.90
PE06BYU	Kia Picanto Lx 5 Door Hatch	Silver	£3,995	£3,495	£500	£90.90
LN06CNJ	Kia Rio GS 5 Door Hatchback	Silver	£4,495	£3,795	£700	£98.30
YH55YUB	Ford Sportka Se 3 Door	Silver	£4,495	£3,895	£600	£100.80
YN06SHJ	Kia Magentis Ls V6 Auto	Silver	£4,495	£3,995	£500	£103.28
BD08LCJ	Chevrolet matiz 1.0se s/c	Super Red	£4,695	£3,995	£700	£103.28
BL52HGY	Peugeot 206 Convertible	Silver	£4,995	£3,995	£1,000	£103.28
YC57YZL	Hyundai Getz Gsi 3 Door Hatch	Red	£4,995	£3,995	£1,000	£103.28
YU55YLJ	Kia Picanto Glamour	Red	£4,495	£3,995	£500	£103.28
YF58LWJ	Kia Rio LS CRDi 5 Door Hatch	Blue	£4,995	£4,495	£500	£115.65
DN07BBK	Suzuki Wagon R+ GL 5 Door	Brilliant Silver	£5,295	£4,495	£800	£115.65
YA57FVT	Citroen C2 Cool 3 Door Hatch	Blue	£4,995	£4,495	£500	£115.65
BL06BYO	Renault Megane Monaco 5 Door	Silver	£5,495	£4,995	£500	£128.03
SG05UDX	Vauxhall Astra Club Twinport	Silver	£5,995	£4,995	£1,000	£128.03
YN04HED	Suzuki Jimny 3Dr 1.3 JLX Plus	Bright Red	£5,495	£4,995	£500	£128.03
YH08YZM	Kia Picanto 5Dr HAT 1.0	Black	£5,195	£4,995	£200	£128.03
MD06TJO	Renault Megane Dynamique	Blue	£5,995	£4,995	£1,000	£128.03
BK57YWW	Nissan Micra Sport 5 Door	Silver	£5,695	£4,995	£700	£128.03
BA04YYC	Honda Civic Vtec Executive	Grey	£5,495	£4,995	£500	£128.03
BK06FZY	Ford Ka Zetec Climate	Black	£5,495	£4,995	£500	£128.03
YU58XTC	Kia Picanto Chill 5 Door Hatch	Clear White	£5,995	£5,495	£500	£140.40
YU58XUJ	Kia Picanto 1.1 chill	Galaxy black	£5,995	£5,495	£500	£140.40
YW55YOU	Nissan Micra Essenza C+C Conv	Red	£5,995	£5,495	£500	£140.40
ML04NRH	Mazda MX5 1.8i Convertible	Silver	£6,495	£5,795	£700	£147.83
BF52ZGK	Mini Mini Cooper 3 Door Hatch	Blue	£5,995	£5,795	£200	£147.83
BG07KYK	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2i Design	Green Tea	£6,995	£5,995	£1,000	£152.78
BF09NDX	Kia Picanto 5Dr HAT 1.1 RED	Red	£6,395	£5,995	£400	£152.78
AJ06UVA	Volkswagen Golf S 5 Door Hatch	Black	£6,995	£5,995	£1,000	£152.78
BF57ZKO	Dodge Caliber SXT Sport 2.0	Black	£6,995	£5,995	£1,000	£152.78
YW06DHK	Vauxhall Zafira GSi Turbo	Ardan Blue	£6,995	£5,995	£1,000	£152.78
BD58HGC	Suzuki Swift VVTS GLX 5 Door	Blue	£6,495	£5,995	£500	£152.78
YO08LDA	Kia Picanto Ice Auto	Black	£6,495	£5,995	£500	£152.78
BJ08YAK	Skoda Fabia 1 Hp 70 5 Door	Blue	£6,695	£5,995	£700	£152.78
YH08ZBE	Kia Rio 5Dr HAT 1.4 2	Sapphire Blue	£6,495	£5,995	£500	£152.78
YO08PJY	Toyota Aygo Platinum VVT-i 3 dr	Silver	£6,495	£5,995	£500	£152.78
YO57URP	Kia Cee'd GS CRDi 5 Door hatch	Abyss Blue	£6,995	£6,295	£700	£160.20
YH05TWE	Suzuki Jimny VVTS Convertible	Blue	£6,495	£6,295	£200	£160.20
YH07JKH	Kia Cee'd 1.6 GS Auto	Red	£6,995	£6,495	£500	£165.15
YN08LGB	Seat Ibiza 1.4 sport (100PS)	Emocion Red	£6,995	£6,495	£500	£165.15
YB10EYY	Alto 5Dr HAT 1.0 SZ3	Azure Grey Pearl	£6,995	£6,695	£300	£170.10
YB10EYW	Alto 5Dr HAT 1.0 SZ3	Paradise Blue	£7,995	£6,995	£1,000	£177.53
BF10RXD	Renault Twingo Extreme 60	White	£7,995	£6,995	£1,000	£177.53
YE08EZK	SEAT Ibiza Sportrider 3 Door	Emocion Red	£7,995	£6,995	£1,000	£177.53
YH57UTP	Kia Cee'd LD CRDi SW Estate	Blue	£8,999	£7,295	£1,704	£184.95
YH08YZS	Kia Ceed 1.6 SR 5dr	Moroccan Blue	£7,995	£7,295	£700	£184.95
FL58HYN	SEAT Altea 5Dr 1.9 TDI Reference	Blue	£7,495	£7,295	£200	£184.95
KW07RBE	SEAT Altea XL Stylance TDI 105	Black	£7,995	£7,495	£500	£189.90
YO58SSZ	Dodge Caliber 2.0 5 Door Hatch	Blue	£8,495	£7,495	£1,000	£189.90
BG59YHZ	Fiat 500 POP 3 Door Hatchback	White	£7,995	£7,795	£200	£197.33
YN58YDD	Swift 3Dr HAT 1.6 VVT SPT	White	£7,995	£7,795	£200	£197.33

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EB54OAO	Mercedes C200 Cdi Elegance Se	Blue	£8,995	£7,995	£1,000	£202.28
DY57VFZ	SEAT Altea 5Dr 1.9 TDI S	Blue	£8,995	£7,995	£1,000	£202.28
VU58COP	Suzuki SX4 GLX 5 Door Hatch	Silver	£8,995	£8,295	£700	£209.70
VE08YFT	Ford Fiesta 2.0 ST 150bhp	Blue	£8,995	£8,295	£700	£209.70
KY08AWC	SEAT Ibiza FR TDI 3 Door Hatch	Grey	£9,495	£8,495	£1,000	£214.65
VE10EZL	Splash 5Dr EST 1.0 GLS	Charcoal Black	£8,995	£8,495	£500	£214.65
VE08BZW	Bmw 116i Es 5 Door Hatchback	Red	£8,995	£8,495	£500	£214.65
VO09BCF	SEAT Ibiza 5Dr HAT 1.4 Sport	Red	£9,495	£8,695	£800	£219.60
VO08AZB	Suzuki Grand Vitara 1.6 Auto	Black	£8,995	£8,795	£200	£222.08
CY59OSA	Kia Ceed 5Dr HAT 1.6 3-7 AU N	Black	£9,795	£8,995	£800	£227.03
VN08CFE	Subaru Impreza RX 5 Door Hatch	Blue	£9,995	£8,995	£1,000	£227.03
MA58WRN	SEAT Ibiza Sport 84 3 Door	Black	£9,695	£8,995	£700	£227.03
VN57FBV	Kia Ceed 5Dr HAT 1.6 Crd LS	Blue	£9,495	£8,995	£500	£227.03
LG08ZGB	Kia Cee'd LS CRDi 5 Door Hatch	Silver	£10,495	£8,995	£1,500	£227.03
LN08WGP	Kia Cee'd LS CRDi 5 Door Hatch	Black	£10,495	£8,995	£1,500	£227.03
LO08CEU	Kia Cee'd LS CRDi 5 Door Hatch	Silver	£10,495	£8,995	£1,500	£227.03
KU07HUH	SEAT Leon Stylance 5 Door	Red	£10,995	£9,495	£1,500	£239.40
VO08EOJ	SEAT Ibiza 1.6 sport 5 door	Red	£9,995	£9,495	£500	£239.40
VK10UBU	Ibiza 1.2 S A/C NEW	Ruby Red	£9,995	£9,695	£300	£244.35
VK10UDU	Ibiza SE 1.4 85 PS	Black Magic	£9,995	£9,695	£300	£244.35
LO09UEO	Kia Soul 2 CRDi 5 Door Hatch	Black	£9,995	£9,795	£200	£246.83
BX07VLB	Ford Fiesta Titanium 120	Blue	£10,499	£9,995	£504	£251.78
VX59BVF	Hyundai i30 Comfort Crdi	Black	£10,495	£9,995	£500	£251.78
LX06YGK	Saab 93 Aero 210 BHP Convert	Black	£10,995	£9,995	£1,000	£251.78
VO03TKF	Mercedes E320 CDI Avantgarde	Silver	£10,995	£9,995	£1,000	£251.78
CY08YHD	seat leon reference	Red	£10,995	£9,995	£1,000	£251.78
VX10EZU	Swift 3Dr HAT 1.3 SZ3	Radiant Blue	£10,995	£9,995	£1,000	£251.78
CY55LCL	Mercedes C220 CDI Elegance SE	Silver	£10,995	£9,995	£1,000	£251.78
VN60UCU	Ibiza SC Sport 1.4	Luna Grey	£10,495	£10,295	£200	£259.20
VX10EYU	Swift 5Dr HAT 1.5 SZ4 Auto	Cosmic Black	£10,995	£10,495	£500	£264.15
KW08RYB	SEAT Leon Stylance 5 Door	Grey	£11,495	£10,995	£500	£276.53
FE59BOU	KIA Cee'd LS CRDI SW Estate	Grey	£12,495	£11,295	£1,200	£283.95
VN60UCT	Ibiza Sport 1.4 Sport 5Dr	Galia Blue	£11,495	£11,295	£200	£283.95
RT08AHJ	Saab 93 Vector Sport TiD Auto	Black	£11,995	£11,495	£500	£288.90
VA57UPK	Volkswagen Touran sehi 140	Blue	£12,595	£11,695	£900	£293.85
VA57FVX	SEAT Leon 2.0tsi Cupra 5dr	Grey	£12,495	£11,695	£800	£293.85
FG08YJN	Chevrolet Captiva 0.75 VCD	Green	£12,995	£11,995	£1,000	£301.28
VN08PYU	Audi A3 Se Tdi 5 Door Hatch	Grey	£12,495	£11,995	£500	£301.28
VA56CAX	Audi A4 TDI 140 Convertible	Black	£13,995	£12,495	£1,500	£313.65
FG10ERE	SEAT Altea S Emocion TDI MPV	Silver	£13,995	£12,995	£1,000	£326.03
BN59DBO	Kia Soul Burner Crdi	Black	£13,495	£12,995	£500	£326.03
VN08SGO	Kia Sorento CRDi XS 5 Door	Ice Blue/Pewter	£13,995	£13,795	£200	£345.83
KY09EEO	SEAT Exeo Sport CR TDI 141	Grey	£14,995	£13,995	£1,000	£350.78
VE58TDX	Kia Sportage Titan Crdi 4wd	Silver	£14,995	£14,495	£500	£363.15
CP56NTT	Kia Sorento XT Auto 5 Door	Silver	£14,995	£14,795	£200	£370.58
KY59YYX	SEAT Exeo SE CR TDI Estate	Red	£16,499	£14,995	£1,504	£375.53
VE09OGO	Suzuki Grand Vitara DDiS Estate	Grey	£15,995	£15,795	£200	£395.33
DN09CWO	SEAT Leon 5Dr HAT 2.0 TSI Cupra	Orange	£16,995	£16,295	£700	£407.70
VO08WNR	Sportage 5Dr EST 2.0 Crd Titan	Phantom Black	£16,495	£16,295	£200	£407.70
YG09ML	SEAT leon Cupra TSI 5 Door	Blue	£17,995	£16,995	£1,000	£425.03
VX10EZS	Grand Vitara 5Dr 1.9 DDiS SZ5	EverGreen	£19,995	£18,995	£1,000	£474.53

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sport

Club has mixed results on the boards

STOURBRIDGE Chess Club have experienced mixed results in the first half of the season.

In the Wolverhampton League Stoubridge's promoted first team currently tops the table after just one defeat in six matches, ***writes Julie Wilson.***

In Division Three the Stourbridge second team is mid-table.

The team is used to provide match practice for less-experienced players and they have held their own against established opposition.

But in Birmingham League Division Two the Stourbridge first team has one win and two defeats from three matches.

However, they look set to score an upset against promotion favourites Kynoch despite fielding a weakened team and being out graded on every board.

On board two Dave Scriven's opponent blundered his queen under pressure, while Steve Jukes was unlucky to lose on board three. Of the remaining adjourned games two should be definite wins on resumption and Stourbridge should be able to at least draw one of the other two.

In Division Three of the Birmingham League Stourbridge's second team also sit mid-table.

The club's recent Christmas blitz tournament championship group was won by Jeremy Fallowfield with a perfect score.

New pair at the helm as Hinks and Robins part

DUDLEY TOWN have appointed a new management team following the departure of Steve Hinks from The Dell hot seat by mutual consent.

Neil Perks and Nigel Kirkham recently left Dudley's West Midlands Regional League Premier Division rivals Bustleholme and will now take charge of the Robins, who stand in mid-table.

Dudley haven't played since November 20 – ironically a 3-2 defeat at Bustleholme – due to the bad weather.

But Perks and Kirkham will oversee their next game, which takes place at Stafford Town on January 15.

The pair had taken Tipton-based Bustleholme from basement boys to title contenders in less than 18 months. They leave with their old club standing at fifth place in the table.

Outgoing manager Steve Hinks

Kirkham needs little introduction to The Dell faithful, having previously managed Dudley's youth team.

Together the new duo will be looking to catapulting the Robins to the Southern League.

Former boss Hinks was appointed in May 2010 but soon suffered a run of ill-fortune as a club that finished in the top five last term found itself struggling.

Long-term injuries to key summer signings Kevin Thompson and Darren Walters, as well as the departure of assistant manager Richard Smith owing to work commitments, did not help his cause.

Hinks' tenure at the club brought memorable victories against local rivals Bloxwich United and Cradley Town.

But following a 6-1 FA Cup defeat at Bedworth United, Dudley managed only four wins in their following 18 games.

Dudley Town chairman Stephen Austin said he was sorry things had not worked out.

"Steve had a major rebuilding task at the start of the close season that he responded to with enthusiasm and commitment," Mr Austin added.

Talents

"The acquisition of exciting young talents such as Tyrone Clarke and the nurture of the club's younger players, Alex Perry and George Reeves, are a testament of Steve's abilities.

"It was unfortunate that the increasing difficulty of Steve travelling a long distance to Dudley meant that a parting of the ways was sadly inevitable.

"On behalf of the committee of Dudley Town Football Club I would like to wish Steve all the very best for the future and thank him for his contribution to the club."

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BILLINGHAM DOUBLE FOR GLASSBOYS

Halesowen 0 Stourbridge 3

BEN BILLINGHAM scored twice as Stourbridge boosted their play-off hopes by beating beleaguered Halesowen in front of a bumper Bank Holiday crowd on Monday.

In what was just Halesowen's fourth game in 10 weeks more than 800 fans turned up at The Grove – but the home supporters were left hugely disappointed with the end result.

Stourbridge, on the back of a four-match losing streak, could even afford to miss a penalty and had little trouble seeing off Tony Thorpe's side, who are perched one point above the relegation places.

Arrivals

Early arrivals to the ground were greeted with the news of two departures from The Grove, namely keeper Nick Bussey's switch to Kettering Town and Lee Osbourne's departure for Tipton Town.

Simon Flower came in for Bussey between the sticks and former Chasetown striker Rory Curtis was also handed his debut, while Stour replaced the injured Aaron Drake with Paul Lloyd.

The new keeper was called into action as early as the third minute when he had to palm a Leon Broadhurst header wide as the Glassboys began strongly.

Halesowen had a decent early chance of their own when Ruben Izquierdo forced a fine save from Stourbridge stopper Lewis Solly, but thereafter it was one-way traffic.

Ryan Mahon screwed a shot just past the post and Flower saved smartly from Ryan Rowe, before skipper Billingham struck a 20-yarder off the crossbar with the Yeltz struggling to cope.

The visitors were then given a golden chance to take the lead on 33 minutes when Mark Smith hauled down Rowe in the box.

But Billingham rolled a weak penalty wide of Flower's left-hand post.

However just three minutes later the striker redeemed himself when the Glassboys were awarded another spot kick by referee Steven Plane.

Ben Billingham notches both his and Stourbridge's second goal in the derby victory over Halesowen

Chris Godwin clumsily fouled Sam Rock and this time Billingham made no mistake from 12 yards, drilling his penalty down the middle to beat Flower.

Empty

Before half-time Stourbridge deservedly doubled their lead and it was Billingham who struck again, taking Linden Dovey's pass and rounding Flower before tapping the ball into the empty Yeltz net.

A Halesowen comeback failed to materialise after the break and the visitors continued to look the more likely goalscorers, with Rock and Dovey going close as the barrage continued.

The lively Izquierdo went on a marauding run just past the hour and shot wide, but it was a rare moment of promise for the home side.

It was no surprise when Stourbridge sealed the victory with 15 minutes to go through substitute David Plinston who side-footed a left-wing Billingham cross past Flower.

The three points were in the bag but Billingham was desperate to notch a hat-trick and twice went close to doing so, lashing a long-range effort just wide of the target before hammering a volley against the bar.

Izquierdo saw a late shot blocked – but Halesowen failed to muster a consolation in what was yet another demoralising defeat in their fight against the drop.

Home

Thorpe's team face another home game this Saturday (January 8) when Winsdor & Eton are the visitors to The Grove, while on the same day promotion-chasing Stourbridge visit Chesham United.

Penalty save holds key to victory for Hawks

Boys League
Glassboys 0
Halas Hawks West 3

HALAS Hawks under-nines West kept their promotion push going by winning a close encounter.

A first-half strike from Harry Willams gave them a lead which was retained at half-time courtesy of a fine penalty save by Matthew Smith.

Halas had to soak up pressure in the second half but two goals from Joshua Wyman and a man of the match display from Bradley Willmott saw them win 3-0.

Halas Hawks East 3 Stourbridge 1

The under-nines East took a fourth successive win after weathering some early pressure.

Stourbridge hit the bar but Halas took the lead from an own goal after a Charlie Greening corner before Stourbridge came back to equalise.

Halas regained the advantage through a long-range Louie Jones goal and sealed the game when Joshua Yorke tapped in at the far post from another Greening corner.

Jones and Tom Baker were joint man of the match.

Halas East 6
Netherton East 1

The under-10s East remain top of the table after a big win.

Jordan Berry scored early on and James Riggy slotted home the second before Berry made it 3-0 at half-time.

Halas continued their dominance in the second half when Joshua Parsons scored with a sharp right-foot shot into the bottom corner.

Netherton pulled one back before Matthew Cole scored his first goal for the club and Jordan Ward cut in from the right to wrap up the scoring.

Halas Hawks 7 Newbridge 1

The under-11s had a comfortable win with goals from Jonty Round (2), Mohamed Mohamed (2), Joe Wythes, Matt Evans and Mohamed Yafai.

Trysull Tigers East 3 Halas Hawks West 4

The under-12s West recorded their first win of the season after trailing 3-1.

They were one down at the turn but equalised only for Trysull to score twice.

Halas then took the points with a Dylan Kealing hat-trick and a goal from Ellis Meredith. Man of the match was Jamie Godfrey.

Phoenix Youth 5
Halas Hawks 1

Despite having the best of the play in the first half, the Halas under-13s found themselves two down at half-time.

Phoenix then extended their lead to 4-0 and although Michael Eaton scored a fine goal to raise the Halas hopes, Phoenix went on to score once more.

Halas man of the match went to Michael Eaton.

Warley Borough 3
Halas Hawks 4

The under-14s East were perhaps still dreaming of Christmas pudding when they found themselves 3-0 down to Warley Borough.

But after some stern words at half-time they got a grip of the game.

Goals from Dan Willetts, Josh March, Nathan Collins and an outstanding solo goal from Louis Ezewele secured the win.

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